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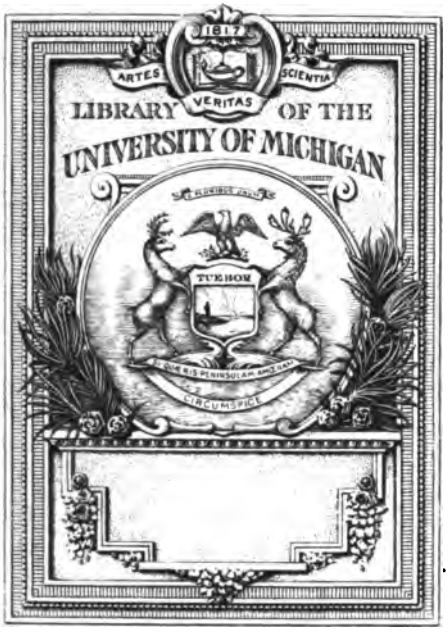
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THE

VOYAGES

AND

CRUISES

OF

Commodore WALKER,

During the late

SPANISH and FRENCH WARS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

MY intent, as a compiler of the following tranſactions, is to enter upon the ſcene of buſineſs with as little trouble to the reader as poſſible, without the form of a preface or apology; and yet, for the ſake of information, there is a neceſſity of ſaying a few words in the place of both.

The world, more through a tender and compaſſionate concern for Mr. Walker, than out

of meer curioſity, has long made enquiry regarding his ſufferings: "How the man, who in his public character ranged the ſeas, as a hawk does the air, in ſearch of enemies, and generally victorious, ſhould ſo far ſink under the diſpleaſure of thoſe very gentlemen, whom he moſtly endeavoured to ſerve, as to be held by them a priſoner for now four years. And how he, who was before poſſeſſed of a very ample fortune, ſhould become a debtor, by the many valuable prizes which he had taken. To this we will ſay, that a deficiency indeed aroſe in his

his fortune by his having advanced too freely ſeveral large ſums to his officers and the men abroad; which were diſputed in his accounts at home, to a difference of near five thouſand pounds. But ſuppoſing him indebted to them, the world with greater aſtoniſhment asks the queſtion, "why they ſtill detain him; when by ſuch impriſonment he becoming a bankrupt had given up his *all* to his creditors, who had any claim upon him?" But to give the beſt anſwer it is in my power, I have often heard Mr. Walker himſelf lament how unhappily thoſe very

gentlemen were impoſed upon in a bad belief of him, by ſome evil men; who, to ſcreen their own wicked acts from juſtice, and to get into favour of thoſe gentlemen they had abuſed, falſely repreſented his intent only of proſecuting his right at law, as an avowed reſolution of becoming their enemy, and under that advantage charged him as the author or confederate of their own baſe attempts againſt them.

As I had the honour, for ſuch I ſhall ever deem it, of having been with him in moſt of the cruiſes he made, and engage-

gagements in which he commanded, during the late wars, I have often in the time of his confinement, asked him to give me leave to publiſh an account of his conduct as a commander at ſea, to ſhew the world that no part of that conduct could with any propriety be uſed, as a reaſon for his being ſo long confined; urging the circumſtance of ſuch confinement as a ſufficient reaſon for the publication, but I have been more than once checked in my purpoſe, with theſe words, *Have patience, my friend, the public does not yet make my caſe its concern.*

But the houſe of commons having, under their conſideration the ſtate of bankrupts, lately taken his caſe into examination, and as from their general regard to mankind, the public has reaſon to expect that ſuch examination of his particular, though not ſingular caſe, will produce a law for the relief of all perſons from the power of the reſentment of their creditors; (who, as the laws now ſtand, are the only people in the ſtate who have power of doing an injury to their fellow ſubjects, without being accountable for the ſame); the general curioſity has

has been raiſed to enquire more particularly into circumſtances relating to him, and into the cauſes of his confinement: I therefore apprehended it a fit ſeaſon for renewing my former applications.

For tho' whilſt his caſe ſtill lies ſubmitted to that auguſt body, till ſome determination be agreed on, for the aſſiſtance of all perſons in the like circumſtances, we would not be thought to appeal from that ſubmiſſion, the following ſheets being only a detail of his actions at ſea, to ſet his conduct in the firſt place clear as a ſea officer; yet the

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methods uſed by ſome of his enemies to miſrepreſent him to the world, oblige his friends to diſſipate ſuch falſe repreſentations, endeavoured to be drawn over, as a cloud againſt the truth of his actions; leſt a prejudice at this time taking place againſt him, might be of deſtructive conſequence. We ſay not this from a miſtruſt, that any one of Mr. Walker's friends in particular has been ſingly ſet upon to withdraw his regard from him; but as an offer to enter the liſts, whenever an attack ſhall be made upon the whole in general; and to ward off any ſtrokes of

art

art in the combat, a few of his particular friends have thought proper to adviſe this defence, or *Narrative of Facts*, which, like the engravings on Æneas' ſhield, may repreſent ſuch truths as check the force of his competitors.

On theſe arguments of his friends, I at length gained the permiſſion ſo long ſollicited; but after having delivered the copy to him for his peruſal, I muſt own, I received it back from his hands much diſſatisfied at the ſeverity of his correction, he having run his pen thro' very near one third of it. At which I am not ſo much diſobliged,

by the ſhortening of the performance, as at the loſs of real truths, which would have illuſtrated the chief perſonage of my work. And though this account may ſpeak to the modeſty of the gentleman himſelf, yet it is ſo far paradoxical, that it takes greatly from his merit. However, as I would not oblige the world in this particular at his pain, I took his permiſſion on the beſt footing I could get it; and have only repaired the breaks, with ſome few additions, where, by the chaſms made, a new ſplicing of the thread was neceſſary to carry on the line in a regular

introduction of circumſtances. And will only ſay of him herein, as Mr. Waller does of good writers,

Poets loſe half the praiſe they would have got,
Was it but known what they diſcreetly blot.

As the various accidents ariſing in ſuch a courſe of action, and the ſucceſſes attending his conduct, were at all times beheld and noted down by me as matters, which, beſides the natural entertainment they might give in the relation, were worthy of my own attentive review of them, as an improvement to myſelf; I therefore not only made a commentary of all pro-

proceedings as they aroſe, where I myſelf was preſent, but have ſince, to compleat my hiſtory, carefully gathered every particular of thoſe actions, from which I was abſent, in the repeated and compared reports of thoſe officers and others, who acted under him therein; for as to his own relation of them, though I never once had the leaſt denial of his friendſhip, I am leſs obliged to him than to any one man living.

Tho' the account of the cruiſes, diſtinguiſhed as being under the managers of the Royal Family private ſhips of war, be that which

which principally concerns the conſideration in view, as they conſtitute the reaſons for his preſent impriſonment; yet as the former cruiſes were introductory of theſe, I beg leave to give ſome account of the whole, chiefly to range facts in their proper places, which by common report have been crouded into the actions of one cruiſe, when they belonged to another. And for the more agreeable reading, I have for the moſt part dropt the journal and ſea phraſeology, to throw the matter into a leſs circumſtantial and more eaſy relation.

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In entertainment of myſelf, I have alſo ventured ſometimes to deviate from the common tract of the ſubject; by purſuing various concurring incidents, as they intervened. which, tho' they may be thought by ſome ſevere readers to be running out of the way too near the borders of romance, I am perſuaded will be pleaſing to many, and pardoned by all; as we ſhall never loſe ſight of the main road, or err from truth. For in offering this ſtory to the world, I look upon myſelf as giving an invitation to a various company; and ſhall endeavour

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to ſpread the table: but leſt any thing ſhould be diſliked, as foreign or out of ſeaſon; every ſuch plate ſhall have a marked cover to it, that they, who pleaſe, may paſs it over.

Mr. Walker, from his own generoſity, has frequently made another objection to the preſent publication, that of his friends being put to the expence of reading any relation concerning him. Did my fortune, like his ſpirit, ſet me above the common faſhion of letting our friends, whom we invite, pay for any part of the entertainment; I ſhould then have had

the pleaſure of aſking his friends at my ſole expence. But as the caſe ſtands, they muſt look on the invitation like our uſual turtle-feaſts; where the owner gives the treat, and the company pay for their wine.

VOY-

VOYAGES

IN THE

DUKE WILLIAM.

CHAP. I.

Mr. Walker, being part owner of the ſhip Duke William, takes out letters of marque for her, eſcapes a Spaniſh privateer, enters with his ſhip into the government's ſervice at Carolina, and protects the trade of that province.

WE are now beginning with the detail of ſeveral actions, wherein Mr. Walker, as a commander, always prevailed to the intire ſatisfaction of his employers, and of the officers and people under him. We would not, however have it imagined,

that he undertook and executed ſuch command undiſciplined in the art of war. Such ſucceſſes could not in the nature of things be expected, but from an attained knowledge and approved experience, of the powers of that art. He was not, it is true, brought up in the navy of England, a circumſtance ſo far a diſadvantage to him, as more than once to have fruſtrated the intentions of ſome gentlemen, his friends, who wiſhed to ſee his talents exerted in that higher ſphere of honour—but he was early and regularly educated in the navy of Holland, and had been in ſome engagements under various commanders in the Dutch ſervice, againſt the Turks. An univerſal peace becalming the European ſeas, he turned his talents to the attaining a fortune in the neareſt branch of buſineſs to that in which he was educated; namely,

namely, that of trading in his own ſhips, wherein he always commanded. To this circumſtance we may greatly aſcribe that calmneſs of temper, and preſence of mind, ſo prevalent in him on all occaſions; as he learned the art of command and oeconomy together, at the conſtant riſque of his own property.

In this ſtation we will take him up in the year 1739-40, commander, and a conſiderable owner of the ſhip Duke William, bound from London to Gibraltar, and from thence to South-Carolina. The war being now declared, and Mr. Walker chuſing to reap what advantages thereof might accrue in the aforeſaid paſſage, determined to put himſelf in the beſt poſture of defence, and took out letters of marque for the ſaid ſhip, not with an intent to cruiſe as a privateer, but to

proceed with her on a trading voyage. Accordingly he fitted her out with twenty guns; but did not incumber his trade with a greater expence than that of taking thirty-two men, his buſineſs being only to ſecure his voyage: for which purpoſe he alſo took with him a parcel of marine cloaths and other things, to make a ſhew of men anſwerable to the force of his ſhip, in caſe of meeting with an enemy. He had the good fortune to ſucceed in this device a very few days after he ſet ſail. In his paſſage from London to Gibraltar, off Cape-Finiſterre, at break of day, we fell in with a Spaniſh privateer of twenty-four guns; and ſeeing her a ſhip of force, and full of men, Mr. Walker immediately ordered our marines on deck, who wanted no breaſt-work between them and the enemy,

enemy, either to conceal their number, or in reality to ſave them from their fire. Thus ſetting up all the hand-ſpikes and other provided utenſils, and dreſſing them in the marine cloaths, and alſo exerciſing the boatſwain's call, in the higheſt notes, as is uſual in king's ſhips, we made all apparent and indeed real preparations of engaging: our fictitious ſoldiery not being in our way, in caſe of an engagement, and ſerving at firſt to intimidate the enemy. Upon one of our officer's ſaying with ſome humour, if we came too near with our ſcheme, the enemy might be too well pleaſed in underſtanding the joke, Mr. Walker made anſwer; "Do you but fire well your guns, and the ſmoke will befriend you; eſpecially if we have an enemy of ſpirit, who will fire theirs: if not, the

wooden men will take them off themſelves." However at the droll appearance of this equipment, Mr. Walker could not help often breaking off, in the midſt of his orders, into fits of laughter: which were as heartily ſeconded by the whole crew. This very much took off the ſenſe of the great danger we were in, and ſo ſpirited the men, that, as we were well gunned, we had certainly not fallen an eaſy prey to the Spaniard in caſe of his engaging us; for never ſure ſo ſmall a number of men expected the attack of a ſuperior enemy with leſs concern, or more in wit and ſpirits. All things, nevertheleſs, being well ordered and prepared for the worſt event, it being our place to appear the challengers, Mr. Walker lay by for the enemy, they being to windward; and ordered

ed a gun of defiance to be fired, athwart their forefoot, by way of offering them battle. This the Spaniard did not return, nor yet did he seem resolved to decline the contest; but still kept us company for two days; we pursuing our way, and he hovering on us in the wind: at last he disappeared, assuredly mistaking us for a greater force than we were.

When we arrived at South-Carolina, Mr. Walker was disappointed by the cargo's not being ready, which he expected. Whereupon he went to North-Carolina; and there being informed, that their coasts had been infested by two Spanish privateers, which had greatly obstructed and injured their trade, and that they were at present unprotected by any of his Majesty's fleet, he offered his ship for the government's service, to act in

the defence of their coasts, and for the protection of their trade. His proposals being gladly accepted, terms were agreed on, the men put all at wages as in the king's ships, and his complement made up to an hundred and thirty. Mr. Walker, tho' commander, entered himself a volunteer; an example so well approved, that several gentlemen of the country, entered on board as volunteers also.

In July we set out on a four months cruise, to extend as far southwards as St. Augustin, the next port to Georgia, and northwards, as far as the cape of Virginia. We soon restored the trade of the country to its former quiet, having, in a short time, intirely cleared the coasts of privateers: the two Spanish ships above-mentioned having quitted their cruise, as we suppose, upon receiving some intelligence of

of our fitting out. We could fall in with nothing which would ſtay for us upon the ſeas; and in this whole cruiſe only retook the Neptune, captain Darby, who had been taken by the above privateers. Mr. Walker finding that the Spaniards had their place of rendezvous at Okrekoke, an iſland upon the coaſt of North-Carolina, which they took poſſeſſion of by claim of arms, and had there erected a fort of ſix guns, we went aſhore, and demoliſhed the battery and fortifications; ſo that the Spaniards never returned during our ſtay on that ſtation, which entirely broke their plan of privateering in thoſe ſeas.

With this ſucceſs only, the cruiſe ended; by which time a king's ſhip was ſent to take ſtation on the coaſt. Upon our return, governor Gabriel Johnſton, and the whole aſſembly of

the place, had an occaſional meeting, in which public thanks, in the name of the governor and aſſembly, were ordered to be returned to Mr. Walker for his great ſervices in the protection of their trade; and indeed every mark of reſpect, both outward and private, were ſhewn him by the gentlemen of the country, who often made offer to him of writing home to the lords of the admiralty, and aſking in a collective body, a king's ſhip for him; a favour which he declined, as he knew that by the rules of the navy, a man muſt have ſerved in it two years before he can obtain a command. Their friendſhip then would have ſecured his ſtay amongſt them, by a further offer of a large tract of land, which they had power of preſenting him by a complimentary uſe of their law in his favour. As a man is there

there intitled to fifty acres of land for every ſervant whom he brings with him, under his command, to ſettle in the country; ſo they abſolutely offered him ſix thouſand five hundred acres as an inducement to him, to ſettle among them, rating each man, under his command in the ſhip as a ſervant at the time, intitling him to the uſual claim. This indulgence alſo was then refuſed, as incompatible with his other purſuits of life. That poſterity will in a few years wonder at this and the like refuſals, may be eaſily foreſeen; when an eſtate of like extent may be of ſuch ſignificancy in eſteem, as to dignify its poſſeſſor with reſpected honours, in perhaps one of the fineſt countries of the world.

As generoſity founded on gratitude is one of the moſt diſtinguiſhing vir-

tues, I could not be leſs particular in ſhewing, that it is a plant which already flouriſhes in our infant colonies.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The loſs of the Duke William at ſea, in her paſſage home from North-Carolina.

THE cruiſe being over, and the coaſt otherways defended, our men were reduced to their former number, and Mr. Walker ſet ſail on his trading voyage to Barbadoes. There he lay four months for a cargo; and thence ſailed October 31, 1742, in company with the captains Staples, Chambers, and Burrows, who put themſelves under our convoy. The firſt night after we left Barbadoes, captain Burrows loſt company; but the captains Staples and Chambers continued with us, till the 12th of December, and then they alſo

alſo were parted from us in a ſtorm. In this hurricane, which was very violent, we ſprung one of our buts, or planks of the ſhip. Being then two hundred leagues to the weſtward of Scilly, and the ſhip making a great deal of water, we ſoon became in great diſtreſs, both our pumps going night and day. What added much to our affliction was Mr. Walker's ill ſtate of health, who had not been out of his bed for three weeks before, on account of the bloody flux; and was thereby reduced to ſuch a lowneſs of ſpirits as to be ſcarce able to give any direction, our ſurgeon having given over all hopes of his life. Our officers and men were at firſt for throwing the the boat and all the guns over board, in order to eaſe the ſhip: this expedient was executed reſerving two of the guns, kept by Mr. Walker's order

to

to make ſignals, and the boat, which he inſiſted they ſhould not part with. In other particulars the ſcheme was fulfilled. The ſtorm continuing, the leak daily encreaſed from the fourteenth to the ſeventeenth, and our men being quite fatigued, and not able to ſtand to the pumps, deſpairing of all ſuccour, (for it was not in our utmoſt power to keep the ſhip above water twelve hours longer, ſhe having, notwithſtanding our inceſſant labour, eight feet of water in her hold), ſome of the officers and crew agreed to take to the boat, as the laſt refuge for their lives; thinking themſelves happy in having it preſerved for them to this end. Mr. Walker, who, notwithſtanding his illneſs, inſiſted on being regularly informed of every circumſtance of the ſhip, now ordered himſelf to be taken out of his bed, and carried

carried upon deck. He there repreſented to them the impoſſibility of the boat's being able to hold above one half of the people; and demonſtrated that in all probability ſhe muſt be devoured by the waves, the ſea full running mountains high. He therefore aſſured them, "Their only hopes muſt be that providence would ſend ſome ſail to their aſſiſtance; and the longer they kept the ſhip from ſinking, the greater was the probability of their being preſerved: that even if a ſail did appear, the moſt they could expect from their boat would be to tranſport them, from one ſhip to the other." This argument with grief finding way to their conviction, they applied themſelves with double diligence to the pumps: but no relief appearing, and the men being again intirely ſpent, the argument on the other

other ſide ſeemed to prevail, of taking to our boat, as the only tho' ſad expedient, for the inſtant to fly to; the people ſaying, "that if half might be ſpared, better that half ſhould be ſaved than all ſhould periſh." Nay ſome who were over-fatigued with labour, or judged there was as little chance of ſafety in the boat as in the ſhip, declared, "they would not preſs to the boat, as they would as lief ſink in the one as in the other." During the time in which we were fixing the tackle aloft for hoiſting out the boat, being about two o'clock in the afternoon, we ſpied a ſail off the weather-quarter. Every man was now again alive, and for living as long as another. Mr. Walker, who ſtill continued upon deck, with uncommon ſpirits, rather gaining ſtrength than ſinking, as was expected under his illneſs,

illneſs, ordered all the ſignals of diſtreſs to be made, by hoiſting a flag up ſide down, at the top-maſt-head, and firing our guns. The ſhip, perceiving our ſignals, drew near to us; and how anxious, yet pleaſing were the moments of ſeeing our deliverance, come more and more in view! But, at length, ſhe diſcovering us a ſhip of war, and apprehenſive of an intent in us to decoy her, all at once hauled her wind, and got from us as faſt as ſhe could. Night now coming on, and the ſtorm continuing, our diſtreſs was again renewed with double feelings, if poſſible, of our miſery. A ghaſtly ſilence for ſome minutes prevailed each man beholding the ſurprize and ſorrow in the countenance of his diſappointed brother; when Mr. Walker gave orders for the mizen maſt, to be immediately cut by the board.

They

They who firſt received his orders not readily ſeeing its intent, made ſome ſcruple in executing it; at laſt, the thought like a flaſh of lightning breaking upon the minds of the whole ſhip, it was in an inſtant down. This the other ſhip at a diſtance obſerving, their attention being again drawn to us by a ſecond firing of our guns, and being thereby convinced of the reality of our diſtreſs, ſhe directly bore down to our aſſiſtance. But how greatly did the ſurprize heighten the joy of our approaching deliverance, when Mr. Walker, having his glaſs in his hand, cried out, "Good God! 'tis my worthy friend captain Burrows," for there was a particular love and friendſhip ſubſiſting between them. This was the ſame gentleman who had loſt company of us the firſt night after we left Barbadoes; and whom

ſince

ſince then we had never ſeen, till this critical moment of our fate. Having been chaſed the evening before, by a Spaniſh privateer, he altered his courſe in the night to get rid of her; and was thus providentially ſet right into the road to our deliverance, and his own.

Captain Burrows, on the true diſcovery of us, was as ready on his ſide to do us every eager act of friendſhip: but had no boat proper to ſend to our help, his largeſt having been waſhed over board ſome days before in the ſtorm, and the other which was left, being too ſmall to live in the preſent ſea; ſo that we were ſolely to truſt to our own; and had ſhe not been providentially at firſt preſerved to us by the authority of Mr. Walker, or been afterwards taken away by any of the officers and crew, as was endeavoured

deavoured, all or the part that remained, must now have perished in the very sight of our friends, unprovided to relieve us. The boat being obliged to go twice with our people, as the days were short, and so little residue of light left, the sea running still very high, it was with the utmost difficulty we all got on board; which, however, we did under the great will of providence, without the loss of one man. The expressions of thanks to that providence, and of joy in meeting our countrymen and friends, as ordained to be the means of this deliverance, were not long abated, before the moon rising, as it were, on purpose to light us to the prospect, we saw with a renewal of some melancholly, our ship go down: which was in less than two hours from our quitting her, we being then

about one hundred and ſeventy leagues weſtward of Scilly, December the ſeventeenth. However, we were ſoon cheered in the reflection of our own eſcape; and Mr. Walker's ſurpriſing recovery added to the preſent ſatisfaction of that ſafety. From the moment he was lifted from his bed, he every hour after increaſed in health and ſtrength: owing, in all probability to the ſudden exertion of his ſpirits, and turn of blood on the occaſion.

But the viſible deſigns of providence to us all, at this juncture, were not over. Mr. Burrow's ſhip alſo in the ſame ſtorm had ſprung a ſmall leak, which next day after our joining him viſibly encreaſed; and in two days after, by the time our men had ſomewhat recovered the uſe of their limbs, was ſo great as to give employment to all hands: ſo that

if

if a leſs number had been on board, ſhe muſt inevitably have gone to the bottom. As it was, we did a ſecond time but juſt eſcape; the ſame preſerving hand, which directed her to our deliverance, in the ſame act deſigning her relief by the additioned number of our men.

In this condition, we in five days after made Scilly, being the firſt land; and got in ſafe, to ſtop her leak: for which purpoſe we were obliged to lay there eight days. We then came round the land, and January the firſt 1742-3, arrived at Dover: from whence Mr. Walker took chaiſe, and went to London. Here a new misfortune happened to him: for the inſurance that had been regularly carried on for his concern in the ſaid ſhip, which was very conſiderable, was by ſome miſtake, neglected to be renewed

newed but two months before his arrival. Thus we may ſay, he at land a ſecond time loſt his ſaid ſhip, and all his property in her.

The journals having been loſt with the ſhip, we could not be ſo particular in the relation of ſome circumſtances, eſpecially as to time, as might otherwiſe be expected from us. The like excuſe we muſt alſo make in regard to the next following cruiſe but one; as the very ſame reaſon, tho' not with the like misfortune, ſubſiſts alſo there.

VOYAGE

VOYAGE II.

THE RUSSIA-MERCHANT.

CHAP. III.

Voyage to Gottenburgh and Cronſtadt, near Peterſburgh. Three remarkable executions there.

AS there is a year's chaſm, between the loſs of the Duke William and Mr. Walker's taking on him the command of another ſhip of war, in which time he was not idle, we will juſt give an account how he employed the year, till the breaking out of the French war: leſt other

people may be taught to believe, that ſome miſmanagement, which we wanted to hide, was the cauſe of our leaving out any part of his life, during the war. In this ſpace ſome occurrences happened, new in their nature, which we will venture to give to the reader, in excuſe for taking up his time in noting the tranſactions of the year.

After the loſs of the ſaid ſhip, Mr. Walker's former joint owners, Mr. Robert Macky (a gentleman, to whom Mr. Walker is under the greateſt obligations, as a friend to him even at this day) and Mr. William Vigor, joined him in the purchaſe of a very fine ſnow, about one hundred and thirty tons, called the Ruſſia-Merchant, to be employed in the Peterſburgh or Baltic trade; in which ſhe made three trips within the year.

The

The first was from London, in March 1743 to Gottenburgh in Sweden, and back again in June following: but this produced no incident worth recounting.

On the twenty-eighth of the same month, he sailed upon his second voyage to Petersburgh; and in the following month arrived at that city. During his stay in the country, he was spectator of a very remarkable execution, viz. of several noblemen and ladies of the first rank and quality: who were sentenced to be broke on the wheel, for a conspiracy against the present Empress Elizabeth. These very persons were the instruments, but the year before, of bringing her, as the daughter of the late Peter the Great, to the throne, by the best-laid plan that ever produced so great a revolution of government; and this

without one drop of blood being ſpilt on the occaſion. But ſhe taking, as they thought, other and new favourites to be more near her perſon, as aſſiſtants to her in the direction of affairs of ſtate, theſe unhappy perſons aſſociated in a conſpiracy of poiſoning her; in which the French embaſſador, Chetardie, was ſaid to have been the actuating inſtigator, though he turned traitor to his confederates, the evening before the intended treaſon. This affair was afterwards more fully diſcloſed by our Engliſh Lord Tyrawly, who was ſent plenipotentiary to that court. This nobleman by getting at the Frenchman's papers, and other detections, ſet him forth to the Empreſs in his true light; and had him ſent home in the utmoſt diſgrace: the empreſs only allowing him a ſcanty time, even to take refreſhment,

thro'

thro' her dominions. The perſon who was next to ſuffer execution was a prieſt, a man of ſeeming great addreſs and politeneſs: he was ſaid to be one of the higheſt ſenſe and underſtanding. His crime was that of introducing a kind of ſchiſm in their church, which is of the Greek perſuaſion, differing little from the Roman catholic faith, except in the two points of tranſubſtantiation, and ſupremacy of papal authority. The new method he ſubſtituted was in the manner of croſſing themſelves, the uſual way being with the two firſt fingers and thumb, repreſenting the trinity; whereas he taught the croſſing with one only, repreſenting the all-ſufficiency of one God; which was underſtood by his brother-prieſts as a leſſening the other two perſons of the Hypoſtatical union. The third was

a merchant, or commissioner, who having been trusted by the government, as agent in some department, had been found guilty of embezzling the public money; this being held amongst them a crime of the highest nature. At the place of execution, as is usual, they beat a drum to demand silence; and then each person's crimes were proclaimed to the populace. After this ceremony was performed, and whilst the directors and state-criminals were preparing, the one to perform, and the other to suffer the sentence passed, the Empress's special pardon came down, excusing the severity of death, but in its place ordering the punishment of knouting, their tongues to be cut out, and their persons banished to Siberia. The knouting is a kind of whipping with an instrument like a single-handed

ed flail, with which the operating proficient can, in two or three ſtrokes at the moſt, cut the patient to death, when the ſentence ſo directs. But here the ſeeming rigour of the orders was even greatly leſſened in the performance, the ſtripes being laid on their naked backs more out of ignominy than puniſhment, and the ceremony of cutting out their tongues being got over by a ſmall part taken off, ſo as to be more an inconvenience at the time than hinderance to their ſpeaking; except as to one lady, who made ſome great ſtruggles in defence of that member: ſo that the executioner was obliged to exert a little violence, and in uſing his opportunity, took off a larger ſhare than perhaps he intended; or ſhe, by her indignation at him when done, ſeemed willing to part with. They were all im-

mediately put together in vehicles, without regard to ſex or diſtinction, and ſent out of the city, on their baniſhment.

As the prieſt's offence was againſt the church only, he had no advocates there to ſpeak for mercy. He bore his ſentence, which was beheading, with an undaunted intrepidity, from his firſt advancing on the ſcaffold to his laſt reſignation, affecting, and indeed rivalling the character of a martyr; ſo that it is more than probable, as he had many proſelytes, he obtained his deſign by making ſome new diſciples among the multitude, to preach his doctrine after him.

The laſt buſineſs was of all the moſt moving, that of the agent to the government; to whom all hopes of a reprieve were cut off: defrauding of the government being there equal to clipping

clipping of coin amongſt us. He did not diſcover any want of the powers of a man, to bear him up thro' this laſt trial: but the affecting ſcene aroſe in the interview of taking leave between him and his wife: for ſhe attended him even to this tragic ſtage. She was, beyond repreſenting it, the living picture of ſorrow; and her whole addreſs was very tender. When ſinking down from him under the heart-breaking pain of the laſt embrace, ſhe felt an end of all; for ſhe firſt met the ſtroke of death; never more recovering from her ſwoon. His ſudden agonies on the occaſion were very ſtriking, and a more heightened tragedy than imitation ever repreſented on fiction's ſtage. He haſtened to his death, and we to cloſe the ſcene.

CHAP. IV.

Voyage to Copenhagen. The public entrance of the princeſs Louiſa. An account of an Engliſh priſoner there. A melancholly accident on the ice. And Mr. Walker's return to London.

MR. Walker, having returned from Peterſburgh to London in October, again ſet ſail on his third voyage, and arrived at Copenhagen in the middle of November following. As he was here made priſoner by the ſeaſon, his ſhip being froze up, we will alſo detain the reader for a while in the amuſements that intervened. The weather here, notwithſtanding the ſtrength of the froſt, is extremely clear and pleaſant; nor is the cold at all

all disagreeably sharp, rather enlivening the spirits than giving any shuddering checks of inaction to the body. But it was remarkably serene and temperate, as if Nature joined in the universal joy, when the princess Louisa made her public entrance on her marriage with the prince of Denmark, the present king; which, for so great respect shewn an English princess, cannot help being mentioned by an English spectator of it. She appeared dress'd in her marriage robes in an open chariot, or rather a triumphal car, designed on purpose in the richest taste of grandeur and ornament, and drawn by six white horses in very superb trappings. The prince's sister sat with her in the chariot, and the prince himself rode before them on horse-back, so rich in dress and his number of foot at-

tendants, as to perplex the view where to fix on the chief object of its admiration. Not an house in the great ſtreets, thro' which they paſſed, but was covered with hangings of tapeſtry, or whole pieces of velvet, tacked on the columns or piers, richly or fancifully bordered, with other ornaments of pictures, or carvings with occaſional deſigns above and under the windows; and at the end of each of the ſtreets were triumphal arches erected of various and beautiful architecture, with decorations of paintings, gildings, and flowers; in all of which were placed the arms of England and Denmark joined, and ſoft muſick of flutes or hautboys, to play as the proceſſion paſſed below. This with the number of led and attending equipages, moſt of which were intirely new, and grand, with the army, and various

bands

bands of martial inſtruments, great officers and enſigns of ſtate, was a ſight of ſplendor and magnificence, that fully ſatisfied the eager ſenſe of expectation. The firſt coach of the officers who preceded, reached the palace at eleven o' clock; and the laſt of the nobility's, who all followed according to their rank and dignity, did not get up till paſt nine: ſo long was the proceſſion, and ſo numerous the attendants. The jubilee, as we may call it, held for a full week. In which time all public diverſions were afloat, and every noble's private table a public entertainment, while ſeveral fountains before their doors flowed for the populace with wine. Every day the guns were diſcharged quite round the town; which as the city is walled round, and of a regular figure, with their ſucceſſive firings

circulated

circulated on the ear in a pleasing exactness. Every night were constant illuminations throughout the whole city, and the ships in the harbour were also the whole time lighted out with the greatest fancy, and from their reflected lustre outvied the land. In short, the whole, from the highest noble to the lowest plebeian, was an elegant and polite expression of mutual congratulation and public joy.

A very remarkable person was then at Copenhagen, who had been kept a prisoner in an iron cage. Mr. Walker went to see him: he was a gentleman of Lancashire, esteemed a man of profound policy. He had been employed by Charles XII. king of Sweden, and particularly trusted by that monarch in acts of bold emprize. His alledged crime against Denmark,

Denmark, was said to have been an intent to steal away the prince, when a boy, as he rode along the coast, and to have carried him an hostage to Sweden, which was then at variance with Denmark. But his real design, which he confessed, was to have raised an insurrection in favour of his royal master, to forward his designs of an invasion upon England. Being detected in his attempt, he was, under the forementioned pretensions, imprisoned by the state. He afterwards had made his escape, and got to Hamburg, where he boasted, that all Denmark had not a cage able to hold him. But, with all his cunning, being seduced by some of his acquaintance, who betrayed him, to walk out of one of the towns, near to which some territories of the Danes belonged; he was, insensibly to himself, led on Danish ground,

ground, and there arrested, and brought back to Denmark; which was the reason of his having been so caged. He had been in his cage upwards of eleven years, but at this time was let out into a large room. He had wrote several volumes of anecdotes and annals: but as he was a great bigot to party, none of his performances have been allowed to trouble mankind. During his long confinement, which had then lasted upwards of thirty years, he never had one hour's illness; and had let his beard grow to a venerable length, reaching to the middle of his thighs. As a memorandum of himself, he would sometimes give to a person he liked a single hair of it, by way of a present: and it was really no little curiosity, being quite of a silver whiteness. Among the various amusements, which

which enabled him to paſs his time alone, he dwelt with great fondneſs on the hiſtory of a mouſe; which grew ſo familiar with him in his cage, as to come regularly to be fed by him, or attend him at his call, and divert him for hours in play, as he lay down to it. At length growing ſick with age, it ſtayed by him till it died, and expired in his beard, where he had wrapped it up for warmth. He had it buried under his cage, being a ground floor, and wrote a treatiſe on it; ſhewing the ſagacity of animals, and their deſire of intimacy with man.

As a parallel caſe I have been told, or read a ſtory of a man, who was kept a priſoner in a Turkiſh government for many years: when the Baſha of the place often taking occaſion of aſking the officers, how the man diverted himſelf in his lonely hours,

was

was at laſt informed by one of them, that he had taken notice of his diverting himſelf, ſeveral hours together in a day, with a ſpider; which frequently deſcended to him from over his head, to be fed and played with; which, when touched below, drew himſelf up by his thread; and ſo again came down, as pleaſed with the diverſion. The prince ordered the officer to plant him ſo as to behold the ſcene. "O Sir, ſays the officer, I immediately, upon being convinced of the amuſement, went in upon them, and killed the ſpider." "Did you ſo, ſays the prince? Then he ſhall be more reaſonably diverted, and you go in his place; and, I hope, find the happineſs of making ſuch an acquaintance:" ſo he releaſed the priſoner, and put the giddy, if not cruel officer in his room.

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He mentioned several secret actions of past time, as facts of his own knowledge, which would be worth notice, could we introduce them in place. But the more surprising historian was a gentleman, a native of Norway, Baron Holberg, then one hundred and twenty-three years of age, in a public office of the king's revenue at Copenhagen, having all his senses and faculties perfect as in youth, except his hearing. The king had his picture in his curiosity-chamber. Mr. Walker was introduced into his company; he was very entertaining in conversation, had been in England the greater part of his youth, and was a spectator of the death of king Charles I. Had some of our modern historians been so fortunate as to have happened on this acquaintance, they had informed themselves better of some cir-

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cumſtances regarding that cataſtrophe, and have done more juſtice to the character of that miſguided king.

One of the winter amuſements in this country, both of the genteel and common people, is the exerciſe of ſliding on the ice. The genteel people have here, but more frequently in other places of Germany, ſledges or vehicles without wheels, richly ornamented and painted, drawn by a ſingle horſe, which is generally covered with trappings of embroidered velvet, or other rich furniture. In this kind of chariot they ſet the lady, whilſt the gentleman ſtands cloſe to her behind, with the reins brought round the ſides, and drives. Theſe vehicles run either in the ſnow upon land, or on the ice; and whole parties of gentlemen and ladies go out together a-pleaſuring in them. A melan-

melancholly accident happened among the common ſort, who were ſcating juſt by Mr. Walker's ſhip, after their cuſtom, in a ſtring of men and women, holding each other by the hand. In this manner they often make ſweeps, or circles, all bearing up together, of great circumference; and ſometimes the leader ſtill running in a leſſer and leſſer circle, till he makes a ſtand, the reſt winde round him, till they become an exact round or circle. Then the laſt man throwing himſelf out as leader, they will all again regularly unwinde, and go off in various meanderings, very pleaſing to be ſeen, and certainly of great entertainment to themſelves; as from the good ſpirits the exerciſe puts them into, they always ſeem very gay and happy. But as miſchance will often interrupt diverſion, as fools ſpoil converſation,

verſation, the foremoſt ſcater in one of theſe exerciſes, ridiculouſly threw himſelf down all of a ſudden, tripping the next ſcater over him, which threw down the next, and ſo ſucceſſively one tumbling in an heap over the other, till the force of their falling all in one ſpot broke the ice, and down the whole unhappy party went, in the midſt of their mirth, to the number of about thirty. This was an accident, of which the like had not been known to have happened before, and was very deplorable in the confuſion and lamentations of the by-ſtanders; many of whom had ſome friend, relation, or child, in the calamity. I hope I ſhall not be thought by our ladies of England, to give too many examples of good wives from among the women of theſe more northern countries, in juſt

mention-

mentioning two inſtances. One of them, who ſaw her huſband thus ſwallowed in her preſence, ran inſtantly mad, beating herſelf upon the ice in vain endeavours of breaking it, in ſearch and relief of him; and, in a continued delirium, expired ſome time afterwards. Another, who was abſent from the accident, in melancholly deliberation put herſelf to death with her huſband's ſword, leaving a formal letter to her daughter, who was then about eighteen, with arguments which we muſt own too refined, "that no good wife can ſurvive the loſs of a good huſband." The poor girl alſo died in about a month after, with inconſolable grief, at the loſs of her parents: but it was ſaid, ſhe had a further loſs alſo of a lover in the diſaſtrous croud.

Leſt

Leſt, in the above relation, I may do myſelf an injury with the younger fair ones, as I profeſs being a batchelor, in gaining if not the cenſure, or even anger, yet the ridicule of the good wives of England, I muſt ſpeak here for myſelf—which is perhaps the only place where I ſhall take the freedom in the whole hiſtory—that tho' every writer is not obliged to give his ſentiments of thoſe facts he relates, yet I will venture in this caſe at delivering mine. "Thoſe actions which are the effects of a violence of paſſion, prove the mind to be too ſuddenly actuated, and reaſon too weak to rule. So all that can be inferred from any compariſon muſt be, that, as there is not one inſtance to the contrary, our Engliſh ladies have the advantage over the greater part

of

of their own ſex, in having more judgment."—To give them a further proof of it, a miſguided reaſon will run the ſyſtem of woman into the ſame errors, where a weak one leaves them. Thus I have been aſſured by a ſpectator of the action, that in ſome of the iſles belonging to the Eaſt-Indies, at the funerals of their men, whoſe bodies are always burnt, the poor enthuſiaſtic wife, young and beautiful, has leapt unobliged to it, into the flames with an eager deſire of uniting herſelf again to the embraces of her lord.

When winter's priſoners were all ſet free, Mr. Walker again ſet ſail, and went to Gottenburgh, April 2d, 1744. At this time news came of the Toulon engagement. The French war being thereupon immediately declared, and every day's ſuc-

ceeding accounts bringing word of the number of ſmall French privateers in thoſe ſeas, catching up all our ſhips thereabouts (as they had long before lain ready to ſail, waiting only for the word) he was under ſome uneaſineſs how to get home; for there was no opportunity of convoy. He therefore had no courſe of ſafety to chuſe, but in ſtratagem. He remembered his former ſcheme of adding a mockery of men to his ſhip the Duke William: but then ſhe was really a ſhip of force. Here he had no more than four guns, and nothing that looked military: whereupon, as caſting cannon there might be expenſive and tedious, he got a moſt compleat ſet of wooden guns, finely modelled; which he painted of a true metaline colour, and fixing nettings or tarpolins upon the quarters, ſet her out

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in appearance even to a near eye a ſhip of war, being ſnow rigged like a king's ſloop. Under theſe falſe colours he ſailed out of port on a venture homewards; and off Cromarty met a privateer, who gave chaſe. He finding her come up, put about on her, hoiſted enſign, jack, and pendant, and fired a gun as waiting for her: ſhe then thought proper to make the beſt of her way to ſea. In the run home he met alſo ſeveral ſmall privateers, like birds, ſcudding about the ſeas; who all ſcoured from him at his appearance, as one of greater prey; and he arrived in London May following.

CRUISE I.

THE MARS.

CHAP. V.

The encounters of the Mars private ship of war; her surrender, her being retaken and brought back to England, and Mr. Walker carried into Brest.

IN the year 1744, some gentlemen in London and Dartmouth, acquaintances of Mr. Walker's, fitted out two private ships of war, the Mars and Boscawen. The command of the Mars was offered to Mr. Walker,

Walker, being a fine ſhip of twenty-ſix guns, a hundred and thirty men, to ſail on a ſix months cruiſe, in conjunction with the Boſcawen.

In November, both ſhips ſet ſail from Dartmouth; and the ſecond day after, fell in with a French ſhip, a king's frigate of twenty-ſix guns, two hundred and ſeventy men from Breſt, but a much larger veſſel. The Mars immediately began to engage her, unaſſiſted by the Boſcawen, ſhe once or twice firing, but at ſuch a diſtance as not to reach the enemy. The engagement, which became very warm, laſted for a full hour and an half; in which, the French having the wind of us, and keeping at a diſtance, where they have always the beſt advantage by the expertneſs of their engineers, very much ſhattered

our rigging, and wounded our main top-mast. They however having received from our ſide, as we found afterwards, conſiderable damage in her hull, ſet their ſails directly for Breſt; yet ſtill continued the engagement; we following in a running fight, in which, ſeveral broadſides were exchanged, when abreaſt of each other. At laſt the enemy getting a-head, left off firing his guns, except only his ſtern chace; and then intirely run off, being a very prime ſailor, and, going much better than we, got clear away into Breſt. We then joined our conſort, and repaired our rigging. Mr. Walker went on board the Boſcawen, and had a private conference with the captain; but was never heard to throw any cenſure publicly on his behaviour: what was

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the result of the conference no one knew; but we were soon sensible, that it produced no great effect.

In December following, about twelve o'clock at night, the wind blowing fresh and thick rainy weather, we fell in with two large French ships, and were close upon them before we perceived them. By being so near we heard the enemy in great confusion, knowing them by their language to be French; and, by the fear they seemed to be under, imagined them to be rich Martinico men, homeward bound; and so far it happened true, the terror observed arising from a fear for their riches on board. Accordingly, all night we kept close pursuit, and so continued till eight o'clock next morning; when the weather somewhat clearing, we discovered them to be men of war, the

one of ſeventy-four and the other of ſixty-four guns. The Boſcawen immediately went off; whereas had we ſtood together, he being the larger ſhip, it was more than probable from after circumſtances, that the enemy would have let us retire unmoleſted: but ſeeing the Mars alone, and ſo inferior a ſhip to them, a ſignal was given from the larger ſhip, for the one of ſixty-four guns to chaſe. We then endeavoured as much as poſſible, to keep a-head to get away; but the enemy gained upon us. When they came almoſt within muſquet ſhot, Mr. Walker thus addreſſed himſelf to us, "Gentlemen I do not mean to be ſo raſh as to attempt a regular engagement with ſo ſuperior a force: all I aſk of you is, to confide in me and my orders, to get away if poſſible without ſtriking; and be aſſured, I

ſhall

ſhall employ your aſſiſtance neither in revenge or vain glory, or longer than I think it of uſe to our deſign. The ſhip which purſues is certainly the beſt ſailor of the enemy, by being ordered to the chace: if by good fortune, we bring down a top-maſt or yard, or hurt her rigging, ſo as to retard her purſuit, we may intirely get clear." He then ordered our colours to be hoiſted, and ſtern guns to be fired. The enemy at the ſame time hoiſted his, and fired his bow-chace; which did us no damage except in our rigging. Thus we continued the fight for upwards of two hours; Mr. Walker having himſelf placed our beſt quarter gunners, at the ſtern-chace, with directions for them to aim at the rigging. But tho' we made ſeveral ſucceſsful ſhots; yet we had ſcarcely time allowed to give the

ſtroke we wanted; for tho' it is a received opinion, that firing the ſtern guns helps a ſhip forwards in her ſailing; yet if ſhe be obliged to winde, or as the term is, yaw about, to bring her guns to take aim, which was our caſe, it muſt ſtop her way for the time, and retard the eſcape. This was certainly the conſequence to us of our ſtrong deſire to repeat our fire at the enemy; which made our running juſt a-head appear to them, rather an artful way of engaging to avoid their broadſides, than a flying before them; which laſt in fact it was; and brought up alſo the other larger ſhip, which had ſtill kept after in the purſuit; and, by the above delay, had now ſo far gained upon us, as almoſt to hem us in between them. In this ſituation they both run out their lower tier: whereupon Mr.

Walker

Walker with a ſmile, ſaid—"Well, gentlemen, we do not ſtrike to one ſhip only"—and ordered down the colours.

Tho' the uſual ceremony and greater honour was to have gone aboard the commodore, yet Mr. Walker choſe to ſurrender himſelf to the ſhip he fought: therefore taking his proper officers with him, and giving ſome directions to thoſe who were to follow, he ordered out his barge, and went aboard the ſixty-four gun ſhip, which was the Floriſſant, and the other of ſeventy-four guns, the Neptune. When he came on board, being conducted to the French commander, a man of ſeeming rank and figure, he delivered up to him his ſword and commiſſion: but the reception on the part of the French officer, to our great wonder, was not anſwering the politeneſs ex-

pected from the nation in general. The French captain, who ſpoke Engliſh well, aſking him in an high tone, "How dare you, Sir, in ſo ſmall a ſhip, fire againſt a force like me?" To which Mr. Walker anſwered, "Sir, if you'll look at that commiſſion, you will find I had as good a right to fight as you; and if my force had not been ſo inferior to yours, I had ſhewn you more civil treatment on board my ſhip." "How many men have I killed of yours?" ſays the French officer. "None at all, Sir," replied Mr. Walker. "Then ſir, ſays he, you have killed ſix of mine and wounded ſeveral; you fire pieces of glaſs." Mr. Walker aſſured him of the contrary: however, his treatment was little altered for the better; but the officers took all opportunities of doing Mr. Walker, and his officers ſeveral acts of civility. Mr. Walker

Walker and his lieutenants had indeed the liberty of the quarter-deck; but no accommodation was as yet provided for his bed or table, distinct from the reſt. In a few days, the affair of the glaſs, which had given ſuch offence, was thoroughly ſet to rights; the miſtake having happened from an Iriſh ſailor, who had been fixed at one of the ſtern guns aboard the Mars. This honeſt tar, finding the ſhip under a neceſſity of ſtriking, humorouſly took a parcel of ſhillings out of his pocket—about ſixteen—and ſwearing, "that ſooner than the French rafcals ſhould plunder him of all he had in the world, he would firſt ſend it amongſt them, and ſee what a bribe would do,"—ſo wrapping it up in a piece of rag, rammed it into his gun, which was the laſt that was fired. This ſcattering thro' the rigging over the

heads

heads of the men, occaſioned the foregoing ſuppoſition, which was thus ſet to rights, to the ſatisfaction of the whole ſhip.

It was on a Friday we went on board the Floriſſant. At break of day, on the Sunday morning following, we ſaw four ſail of large ſhips aſtern; which greatly alarmed the French, eſpecially as their gaining ground upon us was every half hour more and more viſible. This panic of the French aroſe, as before, from their concern for the great value of their cargo, bringing home all the French and Spaniſh treaſure from the Weſt-Indies, to the amount of near four millions ſterling; beſides, their ſhips were in no order for fighting, coming ſo long a voyage; and they likewiſe were very ſickly on board. In leſs than two hours, we could plainly

plainly perceive the four ſhips aſtern to be Engliſh men of war. The French crowded all the ſail they could, to get away. Whilſt the Engliſh were in purſuit of us, the captain of the Floriſſant, who had by this time become more familiar with Mr. Walker, addreſſed himſelf to him to this effect, "That if it had not been for the trouble Mr. Walker had given him, by obliging him to go out of his courſe, he might be now further on his way, out of the reach of the ſhips in view;" and ſaid, he at the time thought it ill judged of his commodore to give the ſignal for chaſing, conſidering his treaſure on board;" of which he made no ſecret. "It is ſeldom, ſays he, any great accident happens from ſingle cauſes, but by a chain or ſeries of things: thus, if we be here overcome, our loſs will be owing to the waſpiſh-

neſs,

neſs, as he called it, of a ſingle frigate, which would not ceaſe fighting ſo long as it had a ſting in its tail." This being ſaid, tho' peeviſhly, with ſome pleaſantry, and being more compliment than otherwiſe, was received by us all with equal eaſe: we had certainly no reaſon to be out of temper, as the ſcene of fortune was now clearing up in our favour; for the Engliſh drew near. The ſhips were the Hampton-Court, Dreadnought, Sunderland, and Captain. The French officer on board the Mars judiciouſly bore away to the leeward, in order to draw off one of the ſhips in purſuit of him. This had the intended effect; for his majeſty's ſhip the Captain ſailed off in chaſe of him, and retook him; but did not afterwards return to the fleet, ſo our ſhip the Mars was brought back to England.

England. The Sunderland loſt her main-top-maſt in coming up, by which ſhe fell aſtern; but the Hampton-Court of ſeventy guns, and Dreadnought of ſixty a little aſtern of her, came up along ſide by ſun-ſet. As an engagement now appeared unavoidable on every ſide, the captain of the Floriſſant again with great politeneſs ſpoke to Mr. Walker and us to quit the quarter-deck, ſaying, that "He hoped we would excuſe the neceſſity of things; but as an engagement was expected, it was not uſual to admit ſtrangers on their decks." Mr. Walker anſwered, "Sir, I go off with great pleaſure on the occaſion; as I am now certain of my liberty; and I hope to have the ſatisfaction of ſeeing you again in being." We were then all conducted to the Cock-pit, where we diſcovered the

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ſad ſituation of the ſhip indeed; here being above one hundred and ninety of her people then lying ſick, unable to ſtir; ſo that their confuſion was very great. But no engagement beginning that evening, Mr. Walker was very ſoon called up. All that night and the next day, the French kept on their way, and the Hampton-Court, and Dreadnought cloſely followed; when the ſecond evening coming on the Engliſh altogether diſappeared. As this affair has been already ſettled under the ſanction of a court-martial, we refer to that better examination of the cauſe of ſuch proceedings. During this time, the captain of the Floriſſant every now and then ſent for one or more of us, to refreſh ourſelves in the air. By which opportunity, the fears and terrors of the French, unprovided as they were for an engagment, could

be

be diſtinguiſhed at every new expectation of the Engliſh beginning to engage. But when no enemy appeared on the morning of the ſecond day, nothing then but boaſting of their ſuperior courage to the Engliſh was to be heard, even from the captain, himſelf, to the moſt inferior in the ſhip; which could not be heard without ſome little indignation on our part, eſpecially of Mr. Walker; who was before ſo ſure of his liberty, and underwent a very genteel *memorandum* of it from the captain. However, as an inward approbation of themſelves and country, in compariſon with others, is very natural to all people, and more apparent in us than in any one country of the earth, we had nothing to be really offended at; the French in general behaving to us with great humanity

and

and politneſs, eſpecially the captain, who now grew ſo fond of Mr. Walker's company, that he would not dine without him, and ſome one of his officers of Mr. Walker's own chuſing. He even ſhared part of the ſtate-cabin with him, where he had a bed brought in on purpoſe for his accommodation. With theſe diſcourſes our time paſſed on more eaſy; and giving up all views of any new deliverance, as we were now in ſight of the French coaſt, we contented ourſelves with the expectation of ſeeing Breſt, the fineſt port in France, to which we were bound, and where we arrived in January 1744-5.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Mr. Walker's recovery of his own and officers liberty at Breſt; and his return from thence to England.

AS we came into the bay without the harbour of Breſt, we met the French Frigate whom we engaged in the Mars coming out from being refitted. He had had his bowſprit dangerouſly wounded, ſo as to be almoſt carried away, and his ſtarboard quarters ſtove in; ſome men killed, but a great many wounded, whom we afterwards went to ſee in the hoſpital. He had reported upon his engaging of us, that, "He had fought two Engliſh men of war of fifty guns, and had got clear, one of them

them having ſheered off. This kind of boaſting we are ſure to ſmile at, in foreigners; but ſeldom are ſo unfavourable to our own national glory to detect it in ourſelves. It certainly is a kind of ſpirit, conſtituent of the French genius: but as they are a people of great policy, is ſo far allowable, as they thereby ſtimulate one another to imitate ſuch acts of valour, however they may be miſrepreſented.

The next morning Mr. Walker, fearing the diſtemper which began to grow violent amongſt the French, might be catched by our men, applied to the captain, to have us ſet on ſhore immediately; which by his intereſt with him, he effected by four o' clock in the evening. This was a great favour, it being Sunday: But it was with much greater difficulty, and as good providence, he perſuaded

his friend the captain, for ſo I may juſtly call him, to let him come with us; in which favour to himſelf he was long denied. "What is there, ſaid the captain, (for I was very near him,) that I have been deficient in as a gentleman, to render my accommodation not quite agreeable to you? Or what is there I can do to make it more ſo? Stay but till to-morrow, and I will take you with me to the governor, and introduce you to every man of conſequence of the place. You ſhall be free; nothing ſhall break in upon your liberty, but the prejudiced notion you have got of it in England." Mr. Walker urging, with many acknowledgments of his favours, that his ſole deſire of going proceeded from a duty of which he could not even in opinion diveſt himſelf, of ſeeing his men accommodated. "Well then,

then, ſays the French captain, you ſhall not go, till I write two lines by you to the governor:" which giving Mr. Walker, and taking leave with the utmoſt politeneſs, we thought it an happineſs to gain permiſſion of ſetting foot on French ground, as priſoners, with our leader at our head. And here I could not help obſerving the power of ſelf-recommendation, in the change of behaviour of a few days, between the firſt meeting of thoſe gentlemen and the taking leave, a leave, as it happened, for ever.

Mr. Walker immediately proceeded to the governor of the town, who receiving the letter from the French captain, told him, he was at his liberty on parole, and any one or two of his officers he choſe for his companions: but Mr. Walker, who hoped his credentials were more unlimited, making

making anſwer, "Sir, if I have not my principal officers with me, I can enjoy but little pleaſure in the liberty you beſtow me; he, with almoſt an obliging condeſcenſion, granted permiſſion for his having all his officers, to the number of ten, on Mr. Walker's parole, to go with him, where he pleaſed, into the town or country; but not by themſelves.----I cannot help being particular in theſe circumſtances, both as it was a great happineſs we received, and ought with gratitude to mention; and which every Engliſhman muſt with pleaſure hear; but alſo, as it may help to remove the bad prejudices we generally entertain of all other countries but our own; which have ſometimes prevented our uſing them, in like circumſtances, ſo well as we would do, did we think they deſerved to be uſed as well as they do.

An univerſal rejoicing was made, and *Te Deum* ordered to be ſung throughout the kingdom, on the arrival of theſe two important ſhips; which had brought home the year's ſtore of treaſure. Amidſt the joy, we were alſo obliged to hear great boaſtings made among the men, of their having offered battle to four large Engliſh men of war, who refuſed fighting them. But all this joy was too ſuddenly overcaſt!

Mr. Walker having procured his own and officers liberty, and viſited the common men in their priſons; where he ſettled the manner of ſupplying them with neceſſaries, and got them the beſt apartments in the place, now brought us all to a public houſe or inn, to refreſh himſelf and us with ſupper; where he agreed with the cook at a rate exceeding the king's allowance,

allowance, for a particular table for himſelf and us. The cook, who was alſo maſter of the houſe, with great alacrity agreed to provide every accommodation to make us eaſy; and told us humorouſly, "he could make de good roat beef for us, and de good plumb-pudding too." And he kept his word; for, to ſay the truth, there could not be a better table, or more reaſonable, than he conſtantly provided.

The very next day, whilſt Mr. Walker was writing at our inn, to the French captain, to beg him to ſend him his letter of credit, which was in a box with his commiſſion, the people came running into the houſe, all in terror and lamentation! with cries, that "The Floriſſant had blown up; and all the crew were deſtroyed with her." Upon our running out, we

found the accident too true in fact; tho' not exactly related. The gunner having taken out the powder, and gone aſhore with it, had left in a private part of the magazine, four barrels, for ſalutes, as he ſaid. The men ſweeping together the looſe powder, which had been ſcattered from the ſtarting of their cartridges into the caſks, and handing down the glaſs lanthorn, which hung in the gun-room, to the people in the magazine, the handle of it, by ſome accident broke, and the lamp fell out upon the floor, among the looſe powder: which taking fire, and communicating itſelf to the four barrels, blew up the whole after-part of the ſhip; in which was the aforeſaid polite and good captain, with all the officers and moſt of the men. The fire afterwards catching the other part of the ſhip, burnt with great

great fury. This diſmal accident we, tho' an enemy, with great ſorrow and tender feeling beheld. As the French are very expreſſive in all their motions---I would not be ſuppoſed to mean they are more tender in their paſſions---the ſcene was indeed very melancholly. Each one of the croud, particularly lamenting ſome friend or relation loſt, at the moment they had prepared their welcome to their homes; and all in general condoling the common loſs, and public calamity to their country. The men who were yet on board, in the fore-part of the ſhip alive, cried out for the aſſiſtance of boats, and called for mercy of their countrymen, friends, and relations; which, though it might have been eaſily afforded, was obliged to be denied by thoſe very friends and kinſmen; the weeping ſpectators only of

their ſad diſtreſs! For the guns, which had not yet been diſcharged, every minute or two going off, as the fire reached them, made it dangerous to offer aſſiſtance: ſo that their own guns were preſented againſt the breaſts of thoſe they called to their relief. Moſt of the men threw themſelves at laſt into the ſea, ſome few of whom were ſaved. The ſhip having burnt to the water's edge, went down with all her treaſure; having unloaded nothing, ſave part of that burthen which was her greateſt pain, and periſhed in the delivery. Among the many ſpectators, Mr. Walker appeared to me not the leaſt affected: to ſee the tear drop at the misfortune of his enemy, the man to whom by chance of war he, but a few days before became a priſoner; and now lament him as a friend! made me reflect at the

the hard fate of war, which brings men together with ſwords directed at each other's breaſt, ignorant of the worth which either boſom may contain: whereas, had happier opportunity placed them within the knowledge of each other, they had lived like beings of humanity, in tender eſtimation of their mutual merits.

By a thronged aſſiſtance of boats, for the ſhip was now gone down, ſeveral people were ſaved; ſome wanting a limb; others worſt torn in various parts of the body, who had caught hold of the firſt floating part of the wreck, which accident had helped them to; fond of preſerving life, tho' mutilated of happineſs, to be hereafter dragged over the earth in aukwardneſs and pain! Among the floating dead bodies, the captain's was eaſily diſcovered, tho' very much cut

and burnt; and brought on ſhore, where it had every mark of honour and reſpect paid to its former owner, being laid out in great pomp of funeral ſtate; for the captain had been a man of rank and family.

When we returned to our inn, Mr. Walker found we bore a further part in the general loſs. His letter of credit being burnt, he now wanted the means of his own and our maintenance. The good cook indeed, equally civil, offered our ſupport, till Mr. Walker could receive an anſwer to his letters from England.----But other things were required; which being neceſſary, the want of them would have rendered our ſtay in a ſtrange country, without money, very diſagreeable. He therefore thought it beſt to keep up his intereſt, till his credit could arrive; ſo in the firſt place

waited

waited on the governor to pay his compliments of condolance on the late fatal accident. The governor received him with his former politeneſs, at the ſame time aſſuring him, he paid ſuch deference to the recommendation of that good officer, ſo lately and unfortunately gone, that every thing in his power he would do to make him and his whole company happy in their ſituation. And he was juſt to his word. The firſt reſpect ſhewn Mr. Walker, in conſequence of this, was an invitation to attend as a mourner the funeral of the deceaſed captain, which was very grand and ſolemn. This introduced him to the notice of the principal men of the place; moſt of whom endeavoured to expreſs proofs of their favour, in invitations to their houſes, and other acts of civility; which again gave him

an intereſt with many of them, and this again he employed in general to the ſervice of his friends and countrymen: ſo that ſeveral gentlemen and others, whom Mr. Walker had knowledge of in England were thro' his means, and at his inſtance and requeſt, ſet at liberty, to the amount of above ſixty perſons.

Among the French gentlemen who ſhewed theſe indulgences to Mr. Walker, the fiſcal, who is the perſon that ſettles the cartel, commenced a particular intimacy with him; which gave Mr. Walker the opportunity of aſking him, to put his and his officer's names in the cartel that was then filling up. This requeſt, tho' with ſome reluctance, he at laſt yielded to; whereby Mr. Walker, whoſe turn for liberty with ours, would not regularly have come round till near a twelve-

month,

month, procured the releaſe of himſelf, his officers, and about ſixty of his crew, as well as of ſome others, particularly one Mr. Coats, captain Harman, and ſome other Engliſh gentlemen who had been paſſengers or traders.

I cannot help mentioning, that among the priſoners for whom Mr. Walker at firſt got their liberty on parole, was a peddling Jew, who, by making out a piteous ſtory, introduced himſelf to his notice and compaſſion. Mr. Walker had unſucceſsfully applied to many merchants there to be ſupplied with money for bills, who with all the politeneſs of the French, yet caution of their own country, refuſed him, all in the ſame ſtory that credit would be very hard to be found, on account that the ſecretary to—— lately in much the like circumſtances,

had freely found credit for his bills, and that every one of them had come back proteſted." Thus giddy men often think their bad actions end at the point where they loſe ſight of them; but it is not ſo: the injury they do to thoſe, who intend better, runs often too great a length, by the prejudice and taints they leave in the minds of others. This Jew one day took an opportunity of pulling Mr. Walker by the ſleeve, and telling him, "He knew his want of money; but that he had a bar of gold and forty guineas ſecreted about him, at his ſervice." Theſe were ſewed up in the waiſt-band of his breeches, which was perhaps the only part of his whole garb that had a regular ſtitch in it, ſo miſerably was he accoutered in rags and patches. Thus was our generous commander, with all his dependants, relieved by the

poor

poor beggar, who petitioned his humanity but a few days before; which is a leſſon to our doing all the good in general we can, as we do not know whence the reward will be, often from the hand leaſt expected. Whether the bar of gold had force or virtue enough to break thoſe of iron, I will not take on me to ſpeak; all I ſhall ſay is, that Mr. Walker, after paying the honeſt cook his bill, who I dare ſay was as ſincere in his profeſſions of ſorrow to part with us, as he was in thoſe of joy at ſeeing our arrival, delivered us off from our ſtate of nine weeks bondage, like Moſes's poor brick-making colony to the land of liberty; and was he to have ſet up a new religion, I dare ſay the poor Jew would have changed his faith.

Our company, which were inliſted under the direction of Mr. Walker, were

were about ſeventy, beſides thoſe of the cartel, who were upwards of three hundred. Our journey was to Morlaix, and but two guineas amongſt our party, which were in Mr. Walker's pocket, reſerved for an addition to our accommodation at the half-way-houſe; Morlaix being about thirty miles from Breſt. When we reached Morlaix the next day, the firſt thing Mr. Walker did was to go ſee the cartel ſhip, as there was ſo great numbers to go in her. She was one of the licenſed veſſels from Whitehaven with tobacco, the owner of which had contracted to carry three hundred people: but Mr. Walker at firſt ſight refuſed to go in her himſelf, or to let any of his people hazard themſelves in her bottom, ſhe being very old and unſafe, not above a hundred and twenty tons, unable to hold one half of the

the number. And as the jail diſtemper was among the croud of priſoners, Mr. Walker on that account alſo was reſolved not to riſque himſef or party in her: but ſeeing a little pleaſure yacht lying on the ſhore, which had been run away with by ſome French priſoners, who had made their eſcape in her from Plymouth, and finding upon inquiry ſhe was to be ſold, and being told the owner's name, a merchant of great note in the place, he reſolved upon purchaſing her. "Alas! Sir, cries captain Harman, do you think of purchaſing ſhips without a guinea in your pocket, as we all know the laſt went for the laſt night's ſupper? Rather, ſir, ſet your invention to work how to get us a dinner." "O! ſays Mr. Walker, the firſt thing we muſt do after the purchaſe is to victual her, and then you may all dine aboard."

Sir,

"Sir, replies Mr. Harman, I fear we ſhall find a neceſſity for eating before then, as it may be a work of time before you make your purchaſe. And if you take us from the cartel, we ſhall all be ſtruck off the king's allowance." "Well then, ſays Mr. Walker, if you think there is an abſolute neceſſity for my firſt filling your bellies, let us go look at the ſigns of the town, and find out the beſt hearts in the place from the ſignals at their doors." We had not gone far in ſearch of ſome viſible ſigns of hoſpitality, before we diſcovered the Engliſh arms. "There, ſays he, is the flag of *good entertainment*, gentlemen; will you pleaſe to dine with me at our countryman's?" We all crouded into the houſe, and found the landlord was an Iriſhman, a circumſtance which anſwered our expectation. "Countryman, ſays

Mr.

Mr. Walker at the firſt ſalute, do you bid me welcome? I am come to dine with you." The landlord well perciving who we were, and having certainly a reſpect to the appearance of Mr. Walker, very politely anſwered, "Sir, I do." "I take you at your word, replied Mr. Walker; for I am very hungry, and tho' no monſter come to eat you up, yet have ſeventy mouths, and we are as naked as to money as any beaſt of the foreſt: but to ſpeak in plain terms, what I aſk of you is to accommodate us whilſt we ſtay, and take my bills," "Sir, ſays he, carrying his politeneſs ſtill farther, I take your word; yourſelf and ſome few I'll endeavour to make happy in my own houſe, the reſt I'll provide for in out-lodgings." I mention theſe particulars to ſhew, that if our countrymen, thro' bigotry, prejudice, or ac-

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cident, ſettle amongſt our enemies, yet they ſeldom loſe their native honeſty of heart to their fellow-countrymen; but rather add to that the polite embelliſhments of out-ſide addreſs, learned from their neighbours. Dinner being over and a chearful glaſs to our country, in which our landlord with much ſincerity ſeemed to join us, Mr. Walker took captain Harman, Mr. Coats, and ſome others of us to the merchant, about the aforeſaid purchaſe. A French gentleman, who was alſo in the houſe, and was informed of our intention, offered to go with us to introduce us. The merchant carried the French politeneſs yet farther than we had already ſeen it, by inſiſting to ſpeak to us in Engliſh only, which was ſo bad and broken, as ſcarce at firſt to be underſtood. However, he agreed to take

Mr.

Mr. Walker's bills for the yacht, and after ſerving us with wine and a collation of ſweet meats, "Pray jantilſmans, ſays he, can you know very well at Breſt one Maiſter Vaker, what you calls his name?" "Sir, this is the gentleman, ſays captain Harman, pointing to Mr. Walker." "O my dear ſir, replies the French gentleman, taking Mr. Walker in his arms, me have de letter to pay you and all de good jantilſmans here, your officiers, for your liberty; me have alſo de commiſſion for de lettre of credit for you, &c.". This interview and account were no doubt very acceptable; ſo that with all the merchant's broken Engliſh, we never underſtood plain Engliſh better. Mr. Walker's owners Arthur Oldſworth of Dartmouth, Eſq; and others, knowing by the Mars, which was retaken and carried back to England,

and

and which they repurchaſed, in what part Mr. Walker was, immediately ſent letters of credit to their friends at St. Malo's; who ſent to this gentleman theirs of an unlimited credit, to be forwarded for Mr. Walker at Breſt, with directions to purchaſe his and any two of his officer's liberty whom he ſhould chuſe, and to offer for them two priſoners for one. I cannot help here making an obſervation, on the French manners before we take leave of their country, that tho' their complaiſance on the firſt acquaintance appears to be the expreſſion of a firſt-ſighted friendſhip, for they never ſuppoſe ill of a character introduced to them, whereas the Engliſhman, who is as civil in the end, always withholds his till he is aſſured you deſerve it; yet when they receive any more certain intelligence of the worth of

their

their new acquaintance, they double that civility to a pitch almoſt inconceivable to thoſe who have not taſted the growth of it, like their fruits, in its own country; for it certainly loſes much in the tranſplanting: ſo this gentleman from an eaſy politeneſs, which was before very engaging, took on him at once the endearing familiarity of a friend, inſiſted on our ſupping, lying, and in ſhort living at his houſe whilſt we ſtaid at Morlaix. And he certainly was in earneſt; for tho' with great difficulty Mr. Walker got off that part of the invitation, which he imagined might be moſt troubleſome to him, that of lying at his houſe; yet he kept us to ſupper, and afterwards conducted us to other entertainments, all of which were hoſpitable and elegant. Perhaps it may be ſaid the complaiſance paid to us

was

was in reſpect to the letters of his correſpondents at St. Maloes (I did not ſee them) or a policy to recommend the ſpirit of his country to our remembrance and report in our own. If ſo it was a public ſpirit: but make what excuſe you will for politeneſs, it is in itſelf ſo humanely elegant and good, eſpecially to ſtrangers in a foreign country, and enemies too, that, like virtue, it is intrinſic in itſelf, let the motive from whence it comes be what it will. Mr. Walker generouſly made uſe of this his new-gotten credit to the general ſervice of his friends. Every gentleman preſent or left behind at our inn took what particular ſum he wanted, the yacht was paid for, other neceſſary money taken; and thus every man with money in his pocket, we returned to our king's arms; where the poor Jew was paid

his money and the golden wedge, and the generous landlord had ample reward and reſpect paid him in return, during our ſtay at Morlaix. The cartel ſhip ſet ſail in four days, with her numbers packed like bale goods in her hold. Our ſtay in getting our new veſſel fitted up was eight days: but how great was our opinion of French hoſpitality yet raiſed, after the former civility of the French merchant, to find it carried even beyond the limits of his own houſe. The yaul, as ſoon as ready, was found ſtored with wines of various kinds and the beſt ſorts, ſweet-meats, cakes, freſh proviſions, eggs, fowls, hams, &c. more than ſufficient for our number and voyage.

Whilſt we were taking leave of this generous benefactor, with ſuch expreſſions of thanks as were the beſt evidence

evidence of our gratitude, he ſlipt a letter of unlimited credit into Mr. Walker's hands, in caſe of our being put back into any port in France. We ſet ſail from Morlaix, February 15, 1745. But the veſſel having lain ſome time in the ſun, and her ſeams not having been properly or well caulked, a matter wherein the common workman's honeſty did not equal their better's politeneſs, we ſtruck over to the iſland Guernſey, the wind taking us ſhort and the weather ſtormy. There, not being willing to ſpare time for repairing the faults of our yacht, Mr. Walker being at all times more apprehenſive of the bottom of his ſhip than that of his men, he ſold her at but one guinea loſs. From thence we ſet ſail in an Engliſh veſſel, and arrived all ſafe and well at Weymouth, February 28th, and Mr. Walker

ker went by land to Dartmouth, which he reached March the 2d.

I believe every officer and gentleman paid Mr. Walker's ſervices the thanks they owed him, in the mentioning of his name. I have had the pleaſure to hear Mr. Walker ſay, that every ſhilling he had advanced on his own credit to the various gentlemen and others at Morlaix was with honour and due punctuality returned to him.

I muſt not forget, that at Guernſey we found on the ſtrand the main-top-maſt of the Victory, which was loſt, with her mark, and the name *Victory* on it. I mention this, as I have very lately heard it doubted, whether any proofs of her being wrecked had come on ſhore.

CRUISE II.

THE BOSCAWEN

CHAP. I.

The equipment of the Boſcawen private ſhip of war; an attempt made to ſeduce the men, and the conſequences thereof.

MR. Walker's coming to Dartmouth ſo much ſooner than was expected was an agreeable ſurpriſe to his owners; who, having repurchaſed the Mars, were already fitting her out againſt his arrival for a new

new cruiſe with the Boſcawen; whoſe captain being accuſed by his own people of ill conduct in the engagement with the French frigate before mentioned, and now having brought in his ſhip before the time of her cruiſe was finiſhed, had altogether ſo incurred their diſpleaſure, as to be diſcarded from any further command. Mr. Walker, as he thought the Mars, tho' a fine and ſtout ſhip, a ſlow ſailor, now made choice of the Boſcawen; and the command of the Mars was given to Mr. John Bowden, who had been Mr. Walker's firſt lieutenant. The Boſcawen had been a French man of war, and the firſt we took from the enemy in the laſt war, called the Medea, taken by captain Boſcawen, now admiral; a prime ſailor, of beautiful conſtruction; one hundred and fifteen feet in her keel, and

thirty eight feet in her beam, mounted originally twenty eight guns, nine pounders, but was altered by Mr. Walker to thirty guns, twelve and nine pounders upon one deck, having on board three hundred and fourteen men.

While she was fitting out, seamen flocked from all quarters to enter on board, but an accident happened here, which I have thought deserves a relation.

Some persons of Exeter, particularly Mr. Coats, brother to the gentleman of the same name whom Mr. Walker had released from the French prison, and brought with him to England, fitting out at the same time two private ships of war, the Exeter and George, one of their captains, Mr. Tailor, finding what crouds of seamen flocked to Dartmouth, while they

were

men in great want of men at Exeter, thought of a ſtratagem to bring over ſome of the Boſcawen's men, which was that of pretending his own ſhip had a tranſport ſhip to ſend off with felons, ſome of whom he ſaid had eſcaped from them, and entered on board the Boſcawen; and ſo begged leave to ſearch the ſhip under that colour, to take opportunity of ſeducing away our men. Mr. Walker immediately gave orders to his commanding officer for liberty to Mr. Slater of a good beard, declaring he meant no protection to ſuch people. The artifice ſo far ſucceeded; but his power of bribing not going farther than the opportunity of ſpeaking to two or three of the men, theſe took ſome guineas from him, and promiſed to bring with them a greater number, having ſtipulated for the

promised reward. Among these was one John Cabel, the principal. When Mr. Tailor had taken leave, as not finding any of the felons pretended to be inquired after, John Cabel appointed seventeen of the men, whom he picked out for his purpose, to meet him at a place of rendezvous. The gang being met, Cabel, who was a remarkable punster and the wit of the crew, addressed his comrades, (the speech I had given me written by himself, nothing altered except some liberties we have taken in the spelling) "Gentlemen, you know my name is Cabel, you'll say a good name for a sailor; well, gentlemen, if you'll trust to this *cabal*, it shall be a *sweet cabal* of profit to you. There has been *a poor taylor* on board our noble captain's ship, endeavouring to *take measure* of our loyalty to the

noble

noble captain; that is, gentlemen, to *liſt* us in the ſervice of one Mr. *Coats*. Now my boys, to *ſuit* him in his own *cut*, ſuppoſe we *patch up* a kind of a ſcheme to be *paid for work* we ſhall never do, and then *ſheer off*. I have got three guineas here, with which we will to night make merry, and then think upon it to-morrow." This oration was received with an huzza of applauſe, and every man followed his leader. At the ſpending the money, when inſpired by the goodneſs of the ale, they deviſed a ſcheme to go to Mr. Tailor at Exeter, every hand to take his money, and then bring off moſt of the men already inliſted with him, to compleat the number then ſtill wanted for the Boſcawen; "for which we ſhall again, ſays the politic Cabel, be rewarded by our worthy maſters at home." The re-

mainder of the money carried them all to Exeter; where having ſo far put their ſcheme in execution as to receive the money for entering, three guineas each man, a countryman of the place who ſaw them enter and heard captain Tailor brag of his artifice, coming to Dartmouth, immediately acquainted Mr. Walker with this circumſtance. He calling a muſter of his men, and finding the number miſſing, was juſtly enraged at the low cunning of Mr. Tailor; and ſent off an officer and party of men, with directions, for the preſent only, to ſee whether they were his men, and to ſend an expreſs of it to him; which coming the next morning with a confirmation "that they were," Mr. Walker immediately went poſt to Exeter, and took his ſurgeon with him, in caſe of any accident happening among the

the men, which might want his aſſiſtance. But the renowned Cabel and his men, having from the party ſent before, got ſome intelligence of Mr. Walker's coming, planted themſelves to meet him, about a mile from the city; where they ſtopped the chaiſe and gave him three cheers, when Mr. Cabel ſtepping foremoſt began a ſpeech: "Noble Sir, we hope you do not doubt our honour; we are true, Sir, and that you ſhall ſee if you let us alone a little to ourſelves; you ſhall ſee we will man you out immediately, with all the beſt men on board the Exeter. Do, Sir, truſt to my management. By G— we are men of ſtrict honour, but we love money and a joke, the two beſt things in the world next to a whore and fighting." Mr. Walker ſeeing ſome humour and confidence in the fellow's manner of ex-

preſſion, could not tell what to make of the whole, but ordered them to meet him at the Swan, where he would ſet up. On his way thither, tho' under no neceſſity of being beholden for a man of theirs to fit out his own ſhip, it being pretty near compleated as to numbers; yet he conſidered, that as his proprietors were equipping the Mars and Dartmouth, which wanted men, and were in every other reſpect almoſt ready for the ſea, he would, if poſſible, bring off what men he could, in order to requite the very ungenteel treatment he had received from Mr. Tailor. When he came to his inn, he met there his officers and former gang, who acquainted him that his men were really honeſt to him, but had been aboard the other ſhips lying at Topſham, where they had received both money

money and cloaths; and that they could, if he pleased, bring away most of the whole crew. Before Mr. Walker had well refreshed himself, the seventeen men also came up; but, being met by Mr. Coate's clerk, a French gentleman, who also had got notice of Mr. Walker's arrival, at the rendezvous, were very passionately accosted by him, and ordered to get to their ship; as for Mr. Tailor, he never once appeared. "Get you ways, you rascals, says the French clerk, you shall all be taken prisoners in de country here, if you do not go on board to your own quarters in de ship." By this time Mr. Walker having signified his consent to his officer, and he again giving the men an hint, a single wink had been enough, like a word to the wise, away they in seeming duty sped on board.

Mr. Walker seeing this new kind of claim, to his men so audaciously set up even in his presence, could not help growing angry, tho' he for a time permitted it; and upon inquiry finding the French petit-commandant to be clerk to Mr. Coats, he sent a message to Mr. Coats, that he would be glad to speak with him. Mr. Coats immediately desired his company at his house, where he at the first interview expressed great obligations for the favour Mr. Walker had shewn his brother, repeating the circumstance we have already mentioned; but Mr. Walker, who had his breast full of other business to be settled, answered, he had no compliments to pay in return, and would receive none from him; and then set forth his complaints of Mr. Tailor's behaviour. Mr. Coats assured him of his ignorance

rance of the matter, as a buſineſs intirely left to the officer they truſted to. "Yes, Sir, replies Mr. Walker, but if your officer has made a wrong ſtep, you and the other owners muſt abide the conſequences." Mr. Coats then offered him his own men back. "No, Sir, ſays Mr. Walker again, 'tis the affront done my ſhip, in the ſeduction of my men, that I am angry at, I'll not have a man returned me thro' compulſion; but my officer here ſhall, with your leave, go on board with a ſingle guinea; and as many as will follow that, to drink my health, I will never part with." Leave being given and taken on all ſides, the officer was ſent aboard; but Mr. Walker ſoon after had information given him, that ſome of the proprietors, or ſome acting perſon under them, had firſt ſent a round of two guineas

more to each man of the ſeventeen; and their own men inſiſting on the like, they gave them alſo the ſame; being in number upwards of an hundred men. This no doubt gave Mr. Walker freſh uneaſineſs, as he now began to fear for the ſteadineſs of his men. And tho' he had power of outbidding any price, yet conſidering the leſs a victory coſts the greater it is, he reſolved to wait the iſſue. To be ſhort, Mr. Walker's officer went on board, threw down the guinea, three huzzas were ſent round the ſhip, *to Walker and the Boſcawen for ever*, and a compleat hundred men, including the ſeventeen, followed him out of the ſhip. Mr. Walker getting notice, that all the men were coming aſhore, haſtened to them and met them juſt landed; and inſtead of conducting them, was himſelf by them con-

conducted to the place of rendezvous, with a ſufficient compliment of huzzas thro' crouds of ſpectators, who, all inquiſitive of the cauſe, were ſoon inſtructed, ſo as to form a right judgment of the matter, by the induſtrious explanations of the victorious Cabel and his crew.

Towards evening, a gentleman of the town, who was ſome civil officer, and the ſame French clerk, came to Mr. Walker, and inſiſted, in the proprietors names, on Mr. Walker's ſending back their men; "that on refuſal the army, as there then was a regiment in the town, ſhould be ſent for to force him." This language little prevailed on a gentleman whoſe method it was, as he ſaid, "When he drew his ſword, to throw away the ſcabbard; and that his reſolution was to ſtand by the men, who would do

ſo

ſo by him; that all who could fight their way he would carry off, the reſt they might keep." He then immediately gave orders, as there was a wood adjacent, that every man ſhould cut down a good ſappling, which, as he ſaid he ſuppoſed they could give the army no commiſſion to fire, would be a weapon eaſier managed than the butt end of a muſket. This order was with great expedition complied with; and ſome who were Hercules's in zeal, provided themſelves with clubs greater than their abilities could wield. Mr. Walker ſoon got them back again in order into an out-houſe in the inn to ſupper; where the guinea was firſt drank in form, which was the only money they would admit to be ſpent on them, every man having guineas of his own in his pocket. Here they provided themſelves with fiddles and other diverſions

verſions of the night; at the relation of which I could venture, as an entertainment again for the reader; if it did not deviate from the buſineſs of the ſtory.

Mr. Walker ſat up in the houſe all night, in caſe of any diſturbance or ſurpriſe; and having in the mean time ſecured all the hack-horſes in the town, againſt morning, to the number of about ſeventy, he, after breakfaſt, about eight o'clock, led off the men regularly by the boatſwain's call, and went himſelf into his poſt-chaiſe at the end of the town, where he had ordered it with the horſes, the men mounting themſelves to the beſt advantage. They who firſt could get on horſe and ride off, were happieſt, ſometimes two got but one horſe between them; and ſometimes a third contended for a third ſhare; and

they

they who could not get any share of his back laid claim to the tail. But here it was immediately necessary for Mr. Walker, in common humanity to horse-flesh, to give a new order, counter to the preceding one of the evening before, "That each man should throw away his club of defence, and take to him in its place a switch of expedition; else certainly they would have knocked down one half of their horses, or broke their bones, ere half their journey had been performed." Which order also, by dismounting many a cavalier, gave a new chance to all parties stowing themselves more regularly upon the decks. Never sure was officer attended with better hearts, and yet so out of character, as Mr. Walker was at this time by his sailors turned cavalry. All who, except his own party and a

few

few who ſtaid with him, tho' the deſire of their horſes or badneſs of their riding, flew forward in a cloud of duſt, like a kind of marine Huſſars; ſo that the poſt-chaiſe and four horſes, tho' going at its uſual courſe, after the rate of ten knots an hour, dropped aſtern. This great expedition, beſides the natural love of making uſe of a fair wind, which is their opinion of jockyſhip, as long as the beaſt has a breath of wind under them, was meant chiefly as a compliment to Mr. Walker, to get dinner ready againſt his coming to the inn; at which they intended to bait, and whither a ſmall party, by order of Cabel, had been diſpatched with proviſions over night, truſting to the inn for ſome additions. They of the moſt elegant taſte among them having laid their heads together to conſult the gentility of the table,

as

as it was their good luck to find it market day, set him down, his lieutenant, surgeon, and the landlady at the end of the table, in good hospitality to a leg of pork and cabbage at the head, a boiled buttock of beef and carrots at the foot, a boiled leg of mutton and turnips on one side, a roasted shoulder and potatoes on the other, and a pease-pudding in the middle. At the top of the second course was a hind quarter of lamb boiled with spinnage, and three or four loins broiled in chops heaped around it, a sirloin of beef roasted at the bottom; apple-pie on one side, apple-dumplings on the other, and a huge plumb-pudding in the middle. As this was meant a general treat, happy was the jack, as they would all wait and shew their service, who could give their captain a glass of wine; tho' the most

of

of them as yet knew him only by the report of their fellows, which is a surer character to them than a certificate from the lords of the admiralty. And as the humour could not be prevented, Mr. Walker entered into it with a spirit that kept up his own character, and yet gained their esteem of his affability. Of which, notwithstanding their own roughness, they are as good judges as any people in the world, and can as well distinguish an exactness of command from severity. But to return to the table: Mr. Walker, after drinking some general toasts, which were constantly attended with three cheers in the place of musick, and making them many offers of wine, &c. in return to their hearty invitation, all which thro' downright liberality of soul were refused, at last thought of a present, of

which

which they accepted as a very neceſſary one, tho' yet unthought of, that of a dinner to each of their horſes: ſo ordering half a peck to each horſe, the whole company were all at one time happy in *good entertainment*, according to the ſign-poſt, *for man and horſe.*

Among the obligations Mr. Walker owed to his men, I cannot forget one favour aſked of them; and which was in their turn ſtrictly obſerved, to a wonder you will ſay, and that was, "that no man ſhould get drunk, but come to their proprietors ſober." I have dwelled upon theſe particulars I hope not too long, to ſhew that an evenneſs of command will generally guide theſe kind of men to a ſtrict obſervance of orders; which happy art of directing has been the great characteriſtic of the gentleman we

ſpeak

ſpeak of, and proved his own and men's deliverance in the courſe of his command more than once. The time of departing being come, the cavalcade ſet out anew. Mr. Walker, and ſome invalids in that part to which nature has appointed the office of giving reſt to all other parts of the body, bringing up the rear, the whole corps arrived ſafe before night, at Dartmouth; without one deſertion, without one man's being in liquor, without one accident, except ſome tumbles over the fore-caſtle of the horſe, or a ſlip or two off the ſtern.

We muſt end this chapter with obſerving, that ever after this accident, Mr. Cabel had great deference and reſpect paid him among the crew, for his judgment and ſagacity; and he made a good ſailor and brave fellow, till like ſome other great men, he fell

at laſt a real prey to gold. Of which in its place; and thus the Boſcawen was at once fitted out with a number of picked men for the enſuing cruiſe: in which as they were all deſerving ſharers, ſo we may ſay, that each contributed to its ſucceſs.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The firſt cruiſe of the Boſcawen private ſhip of war, her taking the Martinico fleet, and her return to Briſtol.

THE Boſcawen being ready for the ſea, Mr. Walker choſe not to wait either for the Mars or Dartmouth; and accordingly on April the 19th, 1745, we ſailed from Dartmouth, perhaps, the moſt compleat privateer ever ſent from England.

Among the ſeveral amendments and alterations, contrived in her by Mr. Walker, for the convenience of engaging and other matters; I cannot help taking notice of one, which might be of infinite ſervice in general,

as particularly instrumental to our success. This was an intire new construction of our quarters; as they were here raised with elm, in the place of nettings, man high and small shot-proof, with a step below for the marines to mount on and fire, and then stand off again to load. By this means the ship was always ready for an engagement, and could not be surprised; whereas, the business in other ships of fitting up their hammocks throws the men into an hurry; whilst the time thereby taken up could be better used in other dispositions of affairs, too much hastened over; if not, too often neglected. I have heard an objection made at home to this contrivance; which, least it may be again started, I will answer: "That the large shot may tear the planks to pieces, and the splinters hurt the men

worse

worse than the small shot could do." The elm yields to the large balls, which have an hole so small, the elm swelling back to its place, as scarce afterwards to be believed the passage of the ball, without ever splintering. This Mr. Walker first proved, before he set them upon ; but I speak from a further knowledge of seeing them experienced.

May the 23d, in the evening, we fell in with the Sheerness private ship of war, Captain Parnell, of twenty-two guns, who kept us company for the night. By break of day the next morning, in latitude forty-six and forty-seven, longitude fourteen and fifty west from the Lizard, we made eight sail of ships, to which we gave chace; and we going much better than the Sheerness, left her so far behind, that she could not so much as come up to

us, or be of any assistance during the ensuing action. About nine o'clock the enemy formed a line, and waited our coming up: we then drawing nearer, saw they were all ships of force: and tho' on our side every thing was prepared for engaging; yet I believe, not a man in the ship thought of coming to one, the Sheerness being quite astern. Mr Walker then, perhaps perceiving some suspence among his officers, as waiting his determination, delivered himself to us, nearly in these words: "Gentlemen, I hope you do not think the number of prizes before us too many. Be assured by their being armed they have something on board them worth defending: for I take them to be merchantmen with letters of marque, and homeward-bound; without doubt we shall meet with some opposition; in which

which I have not the leaſt doubt of your courage: but I ſee we muſt here conquer alſo by a maſter-ſhip of ſkill. Be cool, and recollect every man his beſt ſenſes: for as we ſhall be preſſed on all ſides, let every man do his beſt in engaging the enemy he ſees before him; and then one ſide need not fear or take thought for the other. In a word, gentlemen, if you give me your voices for my leading you off, I pawn my life to you, I will bring you off victorious." Being ſeconded by a ſpirit of approbation throughout the whole ſhip, which could not but elevate his own courage, he then made the proper diſpoſition of his officers, giving them ſtrict orders "that, let them receive what fire they might from the other ſhips, they ſhould not fire a ſingle gun, till he gave the word." So bore up directly

to the largest ship of the enemy, (which, by her throwing out signals to the others, he judged to be the commodore) well knowing that nothing promised him success so much as attacking close.

I forgot to mention, that notwithstanding the shortness of the time since we left England, we had upwards of sixty of our men on the sick-list. These, all except three, crawled up upon deck, and tho' of little service, yet would they at least behold the action.

As we were coming up to the enemy, with all our sails set, the whole number of ships kept firing their stern-chace at us; by which we lost our mizen-top-mast, and had our rigging much shattered. When we came up to the sternmost ship, we received her broadside and those of

of the two ſhips next to her, as we paſſed them, without returning a ſingle gun; making up to the commodore in the center. And now about eleven o'clock getting cloſe to him we began the engagement, pouring our broadſide full into him. This was as fully returned, he having a ſtout ſhip of twenty-four guns. They then broke their line of battle, and attacked us, two on each ſide, and one athwart our fore-foot. The ſternmoſt ſhip of the line, *La Victorie*, which was the ſmalleſt, of ten guns, alſo came under our ſtern, and poured her broadſide into us by way of raking us; but being injured by our ſtern guns, ſhe run out of our reach, and ſtruck. Thus was the engagement carried on by five ſhips only, the two, which were moſt a-head, going off, and in this ſitua-

tion was continued againſt us for a full hour, firing our broadſides, from each ſide at once, upon the two on each quarter, and they theirs as warmly into us; our bow-chace alſo keeping the one athwart our fore-foot in good play; we alſo kept a perpetual firing of our ſmall arms. Yet was this engagement, in which ſeveral accidents happened to us chiefly in our rigging, ſuſtained on our part without confuſion or any diſorder, throughout the whole. Every man went on with his own buſineſs, in his own department; and the word of command was obſerved, with a regularity almoſt inconceivable, thro' the diſpoſition firſt made by Mr. Walker, in fixing every man to his proper ſtation, with diſtinct orders to each part of the ſhip. Nor was there one man or officer behaved amiſs, either in courage or obeying

obeying commands; nor indeed did any one ſeem to excel another in either; the whole appearing rather a buſineſs conducted, than an accident of fighting.

In about three quarters of an hour from our firſt engaging, we perceived the commodore's ſhip greatly diſabled, for we planted our greateſt fire againſt him, all his maſts and rigging being intirely carried away; at length his ſhip having received ſeveral ſhots under water, he fell back from under our cannon, and ſtruck. The engagement was ſtill continued by the reſt. In leſs than ten minutes after ſtriking, the ſhip went down. Here was a new ſcene, of perſons floating in the ſea on various parts of the wreck, which they, who could attain, thought themſelves happieſt in diſtreſs, as fortunate to lay hold of:

this a while ſuſpended the fight. We then and then only were in an hurry, to haſten our aſſiſtance of the barge; for the boats were intirely ſhot away: but we were ſoon convinced it was out of our power, ſo ſoon to commence friends; for the four other ſhips ſeeing our ſhip alſo ſo much hurt in her rigging, it being almoſt torn to pieces, renewed their attack with greater fury: ſo that we were obliged to return to buſineſs; whilſt the poor floaters in the ſea were otherwiſe unaſſiſted, except only by the boat of the *La Victoire*; which was immediately hoiſted out to them, and took up about twenty ſix of the people, ſaved on the looſe yards and other pieces of the wreck. This new attack laſted very hot on both ſides, for near half an hour, the one making the onſet, as the laſt effort

effort for their liberty; and we knowing, if we ſtood the ſhock, our victory would be acknowledged compleat. At laſt one of the ſhips, being totally diſabled, ſtruck; and then the reſt followed, as faſt as they could, one after another; all in ſhattered plight! each of them having behaved with great courage and equal reſolution.

By this time the Sheerneſs came up, and ſeeing the work over, judiciouſly went in purſuit of the other two ſhips, who firſt made ſail at the beginning of the engagement. One of which ſhe took, and brought back; the other got off.

The ſhips which ſtruck to us, beſides the one taken by the Sheerneſs, were, as we at firſt ſuppoſed, all homeward-bound Martinico-men, each

having a letter of marque, and being a ſhip of force, viz.

		Guns.	Men.
Duke de Guienne	Captain L'Etourier	18	65
La Victoire	Captain Bralle	16	58
Le Bell Louis	Captain Fromentin	14	43
St. Andrees	Captain Gautier	18	54
L'Abraham	Captain Berthome	14	46
La Jeune Marie	Commodore, ſunk	24	84

The enemy had one hundred and thirteen men killed and loſt; fifty eight of whom were on board the Commodore, and fifty five among the other ſhips. On our ſide was but one man killed, and ſeven wounded; apparently owing to the new conſtruction of our quarters, as ſpoke of before. However, we and the whole fleet were ſo diſabled, that we were obliged to lie to, for forty eight hours, before we could make any ſail upon

our

our ſhip or thoſe of the enemy. And now we had but few or none ſick men, they having been rouſed in the courſe of the action into health; which proves, what I have before occaſionally obſerved, the great power the ſpirits have in cures of the body.

Among the people who were ſaved from the wreck was the Commodore himſelf, and which was very remarkable, an old lady, a perſon of ſome diſtinction, and who was a paſſenger from Martinico, floating at ſome diſtance on a bag of cotton; which had been put up in the nettings, and is ſuppoſed to have got looſe. When the captains and other French officers were coming on board our ſhip, it was told Mr. Walker, that the Commodore had been taken up from the wreck; at which he expreſſed great joy; and when he came on board,

Mr.

Mr. Walker took him by the hand; and, without waiting for further ceremony, led him into his cabin. Here was a scene opened which required the exercise of his own natural humanity, and the imitation also of the politeness he himself had met with from the French, when in the like situation. Such is the great change of things! the prisoner of yesterday may be master of to-day. And such in general is the happy consequences of generous actions, that tho' the first giver may not always see their effect, yet if we trace them forward, we shall seldom find they die, but return their produce to some other hand. The old lady was now brought into the cabin, in great dishabille of dress. She at once threw herself at Mr. Walker's feet, and wept there in great agonies; fearing

she

she was to be treated as cruelly on board the English ship, as she had been by them in her own: till raised by him, and assured of her present safety, of which she seemed to be more convinced by his countenance and address to her, than by his words, she cries out, "And, O good heavens! Is this bloody conqueror a man of humanity!" In mentioning so particularly the gentleness of the French to us, when in their power, I imagined it might be so far useful and agreeable, as it informed the readers of the manners and policy of another country, in a situation of superiority, to those below them: but I have several reasons to pass over in silence many passages of politeness and generosity, between Mr. Walker and his prisoners: first, as my relating them will be little instruction to my coun-

try-

try-men, who do not ſuſpect any want of humanity among themſelves. Secondly, as I do not apprehend my work will be tranſlated into any of the neighbouring languages, it will be no information to ſtrangers. And laſtly, I know Mr. Walker is prepared to quarrel with me, whenever I ſay a word, that ſeems to throw any compliment on himſelf. I will ſay only, that Mr. Walker having given the Commodore a new ſuit of his cloaths, with other neceſſary equipments, and the old lady a ſilk-night gown, ſome fine linen waiſtcoats, cambric night-caps, &c. in which ſhe appeared a kind of Hermaphrodite in dreſs, left them for full twenty hours ſolely in poſſeſſion of his cabin and ſtate-room, giving them his ſteward as a ſervant to produce every thing under his care, needed for their accommodation; he himſelf

himſelf was the whole time buſied in refitting our rigging and thoſe of the other ſhips, ſecuring the priſoners, as alſo in taking care of our wounded men, in which office he always ſuperintended, three of whom afterwards died, and in providing for the ſick and wounded of the enemy. Upon his return, Mr. Walker found his priſoners ſeemingly happy and in ſpirits; nor did he appear there to have more command than the reſt, unleſs in taking on him a greater direction, to have all things prepared for the whole company in the beſt manner, having always all the captains and ſupercargoes at dinner at his table. Thus in a few hours no people could be to all intents in appearance more in good humour than the preſent company, even to a degree of mirth. Mr. Walker had two French horns and

other

other muſick on board, which he was very fond of, but ordered them not to play; as he apprehended any ſhew of mirth in him might look like an inattention to their misfortunes. But the old gentlewoman, who took great pleaſure in going about the ſhip, and commending among other things particularly the neatneſs of our men and ſhip, in compariſon to thoſe of the French, ſeeing them hang up in the ſteerage, inſiſted on their accompanying the dinner, as uſual; and even joined the flutes with her voice in ſinging. In which art, we may ſay, ſhe was a great miſtreſs by nature.

I have often conſidered the etymology of the French word for unhappineſs: they call it, *malheur*, or the evil hour; which denotes their conſideration of it in a light of philoſophy; and is an over-conforming to the Chri-

Chriſtian-doctrine, as they herein imply; "that ſufficient unto the hour is the evil thereof." I have heard it ſaid, "that this their eaſe under misfortunes is in them a reſpect only for the company preſent." If ſo,—it ſpeaks yet greater to their politeneſs, than any thing has been ſaid for it, or any other inſtance can be given. And as I did not mean, to carry this compliment of their tempers to an inſenſibility of mind; if the reader will lend attention, we will give, from the words of the old lady, her ſtory, which ſhe in a few days acquaintance told, with very feeling ſtrokes of grief, in the utterance.

The

The Story of Madam——

I Will not entertain you, Sir, with the relation of my birth, family, or the many circumſtances of my love, that brought me to the character of a wife. Let it ſuffice, I virtuouſly loved the beſt and moſt generous of men: but my huſband and ſelf, being each of the younger branches of noble families, diſobliged our friends on both ſides by our marrying. He had been bred up early in the army; and, having there gained ſome rank, was ſoon obliged to leave me, to obey the call of honour to his country; flattering himſelf, that by his ſucceſs there, he ſhould better his fortune for our happier days: as we always affix happineſs to the acquiſition

quiſition of wealth. But, in the famous battle with your countrymen of Blenheim, having received an hurt, he was taken priſoner, and died among your people of his wounds. He left me with child; yet, thro' the exceſs of my affection to him, I deprived myſelf of the happineſs of having any living remembrance of him brought to perfection; for I miſcarried of a ſon at the end of eight months, thro' a fatigue of travelling to him, and the diſtreſs of my mind, in hearing of the great danger he then was in; fearing leſt he had not a juſt care taken of him among his enemies. He did not die thro' any want in that reſpect: for I reached him ſome weeks before his death; when he gave me aſſurance of the great generoſity of the Engliſh in the care of their priſoners. He died within my arms; and in reſpect

ſpect to my preſence, and his own diſtinction, the Engliſh buried him with the honours of a ſoldier.

Thus, in about nine months after our marriage, I was left a widow; and tho' my fortune was not ſufficient to intitle me to any great choice of huſbands; yet I often further diſobliged my own relations, in not ſubmitting myſelf a ſecond time to be diſpoſed of, according to their judgment of happineſs; and I continue his widow to this day. Some months after my return home, a decent and genteel woman came to my houſe, deſiring to ſpeak to me; who, when admitted, introduced in her hand, to my great agony and ſurpriſe, an infant apparition of my deceaſed huſband. The poor woman had no deſign in it; but came only to inquire about the certainty of his death. At laſt, by my taking

ſuch

ſuch notice of the child, ſhe confeſſed to me, to have had formerly an amour with my huſband; which was ſatisfactorily proved to me to have been previous even to his firſt proteſtations of love to me, by the advanced age of the dear little one, who was about five years old. Upon hearing all the circumſtances of the woman's ſtory; and finding her to be juſt intitled to the appellation of gentlewoman; and, as I am no very faſhionable condemner of my own ſex, believing her to have been virtuous and affectionate to him; I could not help ſympathizing in the loſs of the object of both our affections. In ſhort, I immediately laid hold of the boy as my own, and have often ſmiled at myſelf in the remembrance, abſolutely imagining I had a right in him, and ſuch a one, as I dare ſay, I then would have

diſputed with half my fortune. But I found the conditions of having him were eaſy, if I provided alſo for the mother: which I did, by immediately taking them both into my family. The child ſoon learned to look upon me as its better mother; and the real one, from my kindneſs to him, ſoon began to believe that my claim to him was greater than her own: and ſhe to her death lived with me, as an agreeable companion, and truſty aſſiſtant in all my family affairs.

'Tis certain, heaven has given us happineſs even in our cares and buſineſs: which by a juſt ſearch of it in them we are ſure of finding out. It was ſo in my care of this infant: for as he grew, I found a pleaſing ſenſation, in the duty, I thought I therein diſcharged, to the remembrance of my deceaſed huſband. But I ſhould

appear to indulge too much the nature of a mother; if I went on to tell you, how happily that care was repaid in the promiſing genius my boy ſoon diſcovered, and all the accompliſhments he with eaſe to himſelf gained in his education; for I made no ſecret of him to the world: but introduced him to all my friends and relations, as my adopted ſon, and as ſuch I had him reſpected; not but I was ſenſible I often ſtood the cenſure of my relations, and even the ridicule of my acquaintance behind my back, for my conduct. However, as the diſreputation of his birth was a circumſtance that could not be wiped eaſily from him, and as I very early took care to croſs every inclination in him to the army, for I was determined not to riſque my love a ſecond time therein, I reſolved to bring him

up to a negotiator (or merchant); and having conſiderably increaſed my little fortune in the Miſſiſſippi, juſt before he was out of his time, his maſter offered him a partnerſhip in his buſineſs, provided I would depoſit a proper advance with him; and he go ſettle in the Weſt-Indies, to take on him the management of their affairs in that part of the world. As I was almoſt weary of my own country, and it was an offer too advantageous for him to be refuſed by me, every matter was tranſacted for his advantage; and he ſet out his own maſter, poſſeſſed at once of a good fortune and a large buſineſs, with his two mothers for the Weſt-Indies. We were not long arrived in that country before he received letters from his partner, beſeeching his return to marry his only daughter, who having

been

been in love with him, and taken ſo ill on his departure, was obliged to make this diſcovery to her parents for the ſafety of her life. I found the letter was a very agreeable ſurpriſe to him; and as I was the mother whoſe conſent he thought himſelf the moſt bound to aſk, he quickly obtained my leave for his going back; the young lady being well known to, and approved of by me, during my intimacy in the family. In leſs than five months, he returned to us with his wife, and a large addition to his fortune; and ever ſince has increaſed in reputation and wealth, to the great eſteem of the whole place, and my no little pride in his proſperity. The good-mother is ſince dead. I ſincerely loved her; and often, in conſidering my regard for her, have thought, that the paſſions which we imagine

natives of our constitution, are frequently learned from custom: thus in our christian education, women hate each other for loving the same man; whereas in the Mahometan they look on each other as thereby united in relationship; and, as having the same parent, commence sisters in mutual regard.

My son's family soon increased in a number of beautiful children; among which I took a particular love to one, a girl whose beauty and endowments of mind made me see her with pleasure the object of universal esteem. Here she broke off. "O! my dear filia, says she, in an heroic agony, as the gods owed one Venus to the sea, (for so this lively matron expressed herself,) know, my poor mortal has paid that present back." After a full discharge of tears, which again eased

her

her breaſt, ſhe went on. "My ſon's partner dying a few years ago, and his whole fortune, which is very conſiderable coming to my ſon, in right of his wife, he was obliged to haſten to Europe: which he did juſt before the beginning of the war, leaving his wife and us behind him, till a fitter opportunity of our following him, or his returning to us. As his wife and myſelf grew impatient at his abſence, and women's tempers not always well agreeing in the ſame houſe, I reſolved to ſet out firſt for Europe, both as I wiſhed to end my days in my own country; and, as her parents had intirely made over to me this young beauty, who was now near ſeventeen, I wiſhed to educate her in France, and there to have matched her to ſome perſon of diſtinction; for I intended to have given her my

whole fortune, which under my ſon's management is now very largely increaſed. But, alas! how vain are our deſigns of futurity on earth! how uncertain are ſerene days! and what a mixture of misfortunes is daſhed into the cup of happineſs even at our lips! O, Sir, this dear creature lies buried now below us, by the curſed rage of man; that devil of quarrel! which ſtalks between them on this earth, from every petty ſtrife up to war. And as for you, Sir, turning with great indignation to the French commodore, you ought, and perhaps may anſwer your raſh perſevering to engage with an enemy you ſaw ſo much your ſuperior." The gentleman only ſmiled, ſhewing at the ſame time a conſciouſneſs of his having done his duty, and expreſſing a tender pity for his accuſer. But Mr. Walker made anſwer, "Madam, that

that very conduct you accuſe is what muſt intitle him to the love of every brave man, and to the notice of his country. 'Tis that bravery, which obliges me to uſe him, you, and all, for his ſake, with the reſpect ſuch an enemy demands." "This Sir, replies the very ſenſible and good lady, is only a man talking of the excellencies of his own trade: but when you hear me out, you will be, perhaps, leſs in love with the beauties of your profeſſion. The morning we firſt ſaw you, a gladneſs ſeemed to reign in the whole ſhip, like that of ſavages at an inhuman banquet, and they uſed a like phraſe, ſaying, that you would not be a breakfaſt for them. But when I ſaw you paſs the other ſhips, I ſaid to the commodore as I ſtood by him, for we expected to have ſeen the engagement begin with them,

that you meant to be at him only. And when you came, like the breaking of a cloud with a ſhock of lightning and thunder together, I haſted where I and my poor child were conducted to the place of ſafety. This was a more melancholly ſituation than the other was terrible. Hither they brought the poor bleeding ſailors, one after another, without legs, without arms, roaring with their pains, and laid in heaps to be butchered anew by the ſurgeon, in his haſte and diſpatch of cure or death. Here ſeveral of the objects died at our feet. Thus ſurrounded by the ghaſtly proſpect, all at once, death himſelf came breaking in upon us, thro' the ſide of the ſhip; cut down the ſurgeon and one of his mates, and ſhattered the whole medicine-cheſt in pieces. Here was a total ſuſpenſion of all relief to the poor wounded

wounded wretches: death coming, as it were, to reinforce his own orders, and ſtop every means or effort to prevent him. You may judge we ſoon left this place of grief and terror, as it grew alſo a place of danger. When we came out on the decks, there we ſtrode over heaps of dead bodies, or ſlipped in the ſtreams of blood, our hearts dying within us at the proſpect of this hideous ſcene of mangled limbs, ſcattered brains, and every external ſign of horror. Thus we wandered from place to place, calling on our ſaints, and paſſed unhurt thro' all the aſſaults of death; in which we ſaw numbers fall on every ſide of us. At laſt, we heard an uproar, ſtill more dreadful, and diſmal cry tranſmitted along the ſhip; "She'll ſink! ſtrike, ſtrike." This confuſion never ceaſed; ſo that tho' your guns I ſup-

poſe were ſilent, we never miſſed their ſound; for now our inward woe grew more and more diſtracting, and a worſe terror poſſeſſed the face of every man we met. We were ſoon informed, we muſt in our turn prepare for inſtant death. Here my dear Maria indulged me with her laſt embrace; and claſped in each other's arms we reached the higher deck. I remember her aſking for the boat, and a ſailor anſwering, "If we would ſave ourſelves it muſt be by wings." And ſo ſhe did; for ſhe has winged her flight to heaven. I know nothing after this, nor how we were ſeparated; nor, when the ſhip ſunk, how I graſped at my deliverance; but my dear Maria, I never ſaw more. And tho' I believe I ſoon came to my ſenſes on the float, yet that was riſing to a life worſe than death. In vain I ſearched

round

round for my lovely fair one: but saw her not. Yet as I saw many float with myself on pieces of the wreck, and taken up, I hoped, for hope still attends us even on a wreck in the open sea, that my dear Maria was among the number; but, alas! she is not." Here her tears and silence infected the whole company. At last Mr. Walker, taking on him to mention the signal acts of providence in her safety; which, if it had pleased, could have equally preserved both as one, she with great ease, which we may call great good sense, was soon cheered, and renewed her speech only to make this genteel conclusion, "That, as her story had found so many friends in the company, and been so affecting to them, she would in her turn endeavour to promote in mirth the happiness of the company,

to make amends for the pain she had given it."

Tho' we made shift to repair in some measure the damage we had sustained, we were still in a shattered condition; as was the whole fleet, except the *La Victoire*. Having a great charge of prisoners, and being moreover weakened by manning the other ships, Mr. Walker steered for the first port in England; and May 30th, arrived safe with all the prizes, in King's Road Bristol.

The second day after his arrival, he received a congratulatory letter from the lords of the admiralty, by their secretary Mr. Corbet (for he always corresponded with their lordships, as all private ships of war are directed to do) desiring, "That if he met with any papers in those prizes, which might give light into the proceedings

ceedings or deſigns of the French at Martinico, he would immediately ſend the ſame to them by expreſs;" which was ſtrictly obeyed there having been found a large parcel of very great conſequence. By which papers alſo Mr. Walker, having been appriſed, that another large fleet was ſoon to ſail from Martinico and St. Domingo, he made all poſſible haſte to repair; ſo that he was intirely employed both in perſon and thoughts on refitting for a ſecond expedition. However fortune, like other ladies of character, does not yield to us in every thing, although ſhe may for a lucky moment ſmile upon us.

A ſufficient number of hands being kept for this purpoſe, the reſt of the men, raiſed, by their ſucceſs and great fortune, to an height of natural ſpirits, beyond what any artificial ones could

could give, ſwarmed over the city in revellings of joy and pleaſure. Tho' many things were committed out of rule; yet by good luck and ſome advice, no diſagreeable accident happened to them, or by them to others. The leiſure-time Mr. Walker could get from the buſineſs of his ſhip, was given in compliment to the old gentlewoman, the French commodore, and others. And herein he was ſo apt a ſcholar, that we may ſay he out-did, in his country, the French generoſity he had met with in theirs. In the firſt place, not the leaſt article of money, utenſils, or cloaths, was taken from any of the officers or men. The French commodore indeed was naked; and what was worſe, ſo was the lady. But Mr. Walker ſupplied him with money, ſuits of cloaths, and all other correſponding neceſſaries, at

his

his landing; he also obtained for him his liberty, and that of all the officers and supercargoes of the fleet. As for the facetious old lady, she exercised her taste, at the same expence, in modelling the great docility of the Bristol milliners, and mantua-makers, in the polite cuts and misshapes of the French fashions, in which she apprehended she had done great services to the country. And as she was desirous of going much abroad Mr. Walker hired her a coach to attend on her, the whole time during her stay, as his own. Being obliged to go to London, he requested the favour of using her coach, as far as Bath, and to have the honour of staying a week with her there, that he might shew the place to her, the commodore, and another of the captains. The rest of the French gentlemen had leave afterwards

wards of going by themſelves. The morning Mr. Walker and his company ſet out, they were moſt divertingly and unexpectedly overtaken on the road by a new kind of cavalcade of the honeſt tars, who, having heard that their captain was going to Bath with the French lady, were determined every one to ſhew it to their ladies alſo, as every one, who had not a lady of his own, had bought or borrowed one for the time; and thinking it a compliment to him to ſet out on the ſame day, they were reſolved to make the genteeler figure on the occaſion. The generous hearted jacks, knowing that ribbands are a great part of the ſtate ſhew of a lord-mayor's day, in graceful knots and roſes on the manes and tails of the horſes, were led by the like deſire of gentility to the purchaſe; for the expence

pence was the left article conſidered; of all the variety of colours, tied up in ſtreamers, that might have paſſed for the ſtrings of ſo many rainbows, or in knotted roſes to adorn their triumph. Theſe when brought home moſt of their ladies fell in love with: ſo that the number was increaſed, and equally diſpoſed of on the necks and rumps of the horſes, and in the hats, and on the breaſts of the ladies. Beſides theſe, all the men had ſimilar cockades for themſelves. Never ſure were horſes, whores, and ribbands ſo dear in one day at Briſtol! They who got coaches, were no doubt in their own thoughts ſet out the moſt genteel. Whereas they were moſt the caricaturas of gentility: whilſt thoſe who flaunted in open chaiſes exhibited a more looſe and eaſy picture, tho' they run the greateſt riſque of breaking

ing their necks. The waggons and their horses, adorned with boughs, ribbands, and bells, trotted on in the gayest dress of all, and seemed most happy in themselves. Some few appeared, like straggling attendants of the procession, on horse-back; and he who would not be thought without a mistress, took her behind him. But they who could get neither coach, chaise, nor waggon, going in search of something with wheels, and finding some brewer's trundles, (which thro' policy or good nature were not refused them, as otherwise they would perhaps have been piratically borrowed for the occasion) sawed a butt or large hogshead into two; and nailing it down to the trundle, with a board across for a seat, set out as much in pomp, as their fellows, and more in character of a triumphal car; obliged to

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the ready invention and contrivance peculiar to their species for this their happy equipment. Besides having an equal ornament of parti-coloured streamers properly disposed, these machines, of which there were at least twenty, were decorated with an additional fancy of an ensign or jack, set up on the head of the foremost horse, a pennant on a pole erected on the foremost part of the trundle, and colours hung out by the like contrivance on a sloping one, at the stern; which made them of an amphibious kind, or a mixture of land and water carriage. I hope my reader will not imagine, I exaggerate or add any circumstances by way of making out a tale; upon my word I do not. The many living witnesses to all these particulars could easily disprove any false fact which might appear in the performance;

formance; but the number of incidents and catastrophes are so numerous and interesting, thro' the whole, that the story tells itself; and runs on, like a tongue with an easy talent of speaking, without waiting for much assistance from invention or judgment. This new invention bore much the greatest applause, and made the most corresponding and gay figure of the whole triumph. In this pomp and order, tho' with a little more solemness, than is usually agreed to, in the like processions of a lord-mayor, or lord-keeper on the first days of term, the several retinues ran by Mr. Walker's company, to the great pleasure and delight particularly of the old lady, who was very sedulous in returning the compliments of salutation, as they huzzaed and passed. "No wonder, says she to Mr. Walker, your country

country with this ſpirited liberty beats the world at ſea." The French commander was leſs ſatisfied at the remark, taking this cavalcade as a kind of triumph before him, and refuſed going into the town with them: but was aſſured by Mr. Walker of his own ignorance of the whole affair; and that the moment the men got to the town, they would of themſelves inſtantly diſperſe, and he never ſee one of them; that it was only a whim put into execution in their droll manner of doing things, which always afforded mirth even to themſelves at their awkwardneſs in imitating any cuſtoms upon land: in which, as in their laſt ſort of equipages, they could not help mixing their own ſea manners even in their common expreſſions; being a people of a diſtinct nature

ture in themſelves, for the moſt part diveſted of common knowledge of things on ſhore. "If then, that be the caſe, ſays he, and ſo long as it is the caſe, you will always be maſters in men at ſea. Now our ſailors are at ſea juſt what yours are at land: beings not properly acting in their own element; and therefore aukward in their manners, as endeavouring, on the contrary of yours, to make thoſe of the land ſubmit to the uſes of the ſea. In which we run a danger, where you, on the other hand, are diverted."

Their ſtay at Bath, where the French lady and officers expreſſed great pleaſure and ſatisfaction, could not be long; Mr. Walker's compliments going farther than any entertainment this gay place could give, he

he having thro' his intereſt gained all their names to be put in a cartel, in leſs than two months from their firſt arrival. Their turn was now to go, and he himſelf was obliged to take leave of them at Bath, as his buſineſs hurried him to London. But not a circumſtance was forgot, which might attend as a convenience on their ſtay, even to their departure, and after; as to proviſions, wine, &c. being ſent them on board. The commodore, all the officers of the fleet, ſupercargoes, and paſſengers went, all by the ſame intereſt, together. Mr. Walker gave the commodore two letters, one for the merchant at Morlaix, and the other for the governor at Breſt, recommending to them the bravery of the gentleman, who was the bearer; and he had the pleaſure ſoon after to ſee

ſee his name ſet to a command in the king's ſervice. Both he and the lady expreſſed an additioned diſtreſs in their common loſs, being deprived of the means of making Mr. Walker a return for his civilities: ſhe indeed offered him a draught on her ſon in France, which he refuſed: but ſhe wrote to him from Briſtol, full of acknowledgments and promiſes of gratitude to a generoſity ſhe wiſhed ſhe had never known. Which without doubt, had ſhe lived, would have correſponded with her other proofs of ſenſe and ſpirit. But Mr. Walker has been ſome little time ago informed that, immediately after ſhe had ſeen her adopted ſon, ſhe was taken ill, without having had time before her death to make her will in his favour, her then preſent one being made to her

her beloved Maria; and that her relations have ſued him to an account; which he is well able to pay, having, thro' the uſe of her fortune, amaſſed two very reſpectable eſtates in Europe and the Weſt-Indies.

CHAP. III.

The ſecond cruiſe of the Boſcawen private ſhip of war. Her taking a French ſnow; the mutiny of the men on taking a Dutch veſſel; her putting in to Madeira, and ſtay there.

AFTER the departure of our French company from Bath, Mr. Walker fell ill of a fever there. Mr. Holdſworth went to him and ſtaid with him till his recovery, ſo far as, to be able to be brought down by four men in a chair; his time for going to London being elapſed, and his preſence every hour needed at Briſtol. From thence, after a moſt expeditious refitting of new maſts, yards,

yards, and other materials, we ſet ſail July the 26th, 1745, with the ſame officers and crew; except our firſt lieutenant, Mr. Brooks, who was ſon to one of the lords of the regency at Hamburgh, an acquaintance of Mr. Walker's, and had been, the firſt moment Mr. Walker took the command of a cruiſing ſhip, ſent under him by his father to ſea. This gentleman, on the news of our ſucceſs in the laſt ſignal engagement, and on Mr. Walker's writing to his father in his favour, as he was a young man of the greateſt courage and merit, was called home, and immediately promoted to the command of a ſixty gun ſhip againſt the Turks.

I muſt run the riſque of ſome little cenſure in firſt ſetting out with a ſuperſtitious ſtory, as ominous to the

misfortune of this cruiſe, not that in myſelf I feel my own mind under the tyranny of ſuperſtition, however I may have a proper deference to the good authorities of others. But without ſuppoſing belief at all to interfere, the mentioning of it here is neceſſary, as it produced a new ſubject which requires to be diſtinctly treated. There had been a report made by the French officers, when this ſhip was firſt taken, that a gunner's wife had been murdered on board. Whether this ſtory was known to ſome of the men, and ſo promulgated among the reſt, Mr. Walker could ſay, ſo far from mentioning it himſelf, he never once ſeemed to think of it. But one of the men, remarkable for his ſobriety and good character, one night alarmed the ſhip, declaring, that he had ſeen a

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ſtrange appearance of a woman, deſcribing her dreſs and figure, who informed him, among ſome other particulars, that the ſhip would be loſt. Mr. Walker took all the pains imaginable to ſuppreſs ſuch a notion, ſeeing it too much prevailed on the ſpirits of his men; but the opinion had taken root, and he found it a more ſerious matter than he at firſt imagined: ſo ſtrong is any previous impreſſion received in the mind, planting itſelf againſt all the efforts and regular attacks of reaſon! He called the man into his cabin, who to the laſt perſiſted in his ſtory; but with his uſual civility and ſenſe, as he was perhaps a man of all the reſt the moſt remarkable for thoſe qualities, he promiſed not to repeat it. Had the man raiſed up a thouſand ſpectres, acquainting them with the falls of

kingdoms and of kings, it had been treated with unconcern; but the prediction of their own misfortune, so near at hand, made a deep impreſſion on the courage of the boldeſt. The fellow came again ſeriouſly and privately to Mr. Walker, and declared, that he a ſecond time had converſed with her. And a third time, he called out, in ſeeming agonies to ſome of his ſhip-mates, "that he then ſaw and heard her." Theſe were enemies for Mr. Walker to deal with, which he had not yet found among the living; for now a total languor infected all the common men, and even ſome of the officers. And two more of the men, in their ſcared imaginations were ready to make oath, of their ſeeing her at different times, and gave accounts ſhocking in circumſtances. Mr. Walker could not

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conceive it to be any ſcheme or contrived tale to draw off the affections of the men; or debilitate their courage. Nor did puniſhment appear a proper means of ſuppreſſing the opinions of the mind; but ſtill there was a neceſſity for ſome cure.

It may perhaps be ſtill thought a matter of ſmall conſequence to mention: but they who are converſant with men under a command, know that a deſpondency often runs thro' a whole ſet of them from a trifling cauſe, and is generally attended with conſequences very dangerous to a commander. Enthuſiaſm itſelf indeed is a ſpectre of the brain; but, being more a ſpirit of life, it raiſes and actuates men to bold and glorious actions; for the greateſt deeds which emblazon hiſtory, from the firſt date of time to the preſent day, have been

atchieved by this ſpirit alone. If enthuſiaſm, which is the higheſt region of ſuperſtition, will inſpire to ſuch acts of heroiſm, to what meaſſneſs of action will deſpondency, which is its loweſt abyſs, enervate and clog the mental powers! for theſe two degrees riſe and fall from the ſmalleſt turns or changes of things. Like other mechanic ſpirits in the tube, affected by every alteration of the air, the ſmalleſt accident may influence the greateſt deſigns, and carry them up to proſperity, fame, and ſun-ſhine; or lower them to adverſity and nipping froſts, in which not a bud of glory can put forth or flouriſh. In what an uncertain region then does a commander move, who acts in this ſphere of praiſe and popular approbation! 'Tis therefore wrong in thoſe, who judge of their actions at a diſtance,

ſtance, not to allow ſometimes the greateſt accidents of ſucceſs or misfortune to be conſequences often of the ſmalleſt cauſe. I ſpeak but as to the general; for, as Mr. Walker has never been under public cenſure as an officer, all I mean to advance is, that the foregoing relation, tho' it may appear a ſubject fit only for a nurſery, (according to the diabolical cuſtom of frighting children to ſleep,) was a matter of more moment at the time, and afterwards, than can be, without ſenſible conſideration, at firſt imagined. And I muſt alſo take care to excuſe myſelf as a writer; hoping the reader will not think, becauſe I am beginning a tragical ſcene, that I endeavour to imitate the tragic authors, who write only to the paſſions, by introducing a ghoſt.

Mr. Walker therefore, in his then circumſtances, put this affair on ſuch a footing, as if ſome others had contrived this apparition to ſtrike the conceptions of all ſuch fools as would believe it; and he promiſed a reward to any who would diſcover the inventors of ſuch an ill-timed plot of diverſion. Finding this begin to anſwer his expectation, he thought it the ſeaſon to apply the cure, and gave money to two of the moſt truſty and intelligent of the common men he could pitch upon, to take on them, by ſome well planned ſtory, to bring the reſt into an opinion, that they were the dreſt-up phantom; and they accordingly underwent a very ſevere cenſure, in words only, for ſuch their imprudence. This had a better effect than any other means of argument;

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and it found alſo a readier belief from a ſtory he to this purpoſe told us very a-propos, of having himſelf ſeen an appatition, which from the appearing probability in its circumſtances of being real, and proving in the end a cheat, ſhewed the general foundation of ſuch pretences.

As we had nothing material between the firſt day of our cruiſe, and the twenty ſecond of Auguſt, I ſhall, with the leave of ſome of my readers, fill up the ſpace with the relation of Mr. Walker's ſtory; eſpecially as there may be a leſſon drawn from it. Thoſe who think it an intruſion on the ſubject may very readily paſs it over.

In the midſt of June 1734, Mr. Walker lying at an anchor at Cadiz, in his ſhip the Elizabeth, a gentleman of Ireland, whoſe name was Burnet,

was then on board, going to take his paſſage over to Ireland. This gentleman was a particular acquaintance of Mr. Walker's, and he was extremely fond of him, being a man of great good ſenſe and very lively in converſation. The night before the affair which we ſpeak of happened, the ſubject turned upon apparitions of deceaſed friends, in which this gentleman ſeemed much to believe, and told many ſtrange ſtories as authorities for them, beſides giving ſome metaphyſical arguments, chiefly that the natural fear we had of them proved the ſoul's exiſtence after death. But Mr. Walker, who was entirely of another way of thinking, treating all his arguments with ridicule, Mr. Burnet, who was bred a phyſician, was curious to try how far fancy might be wrought on in an unbeliever, and reſolved

solved to prove the power of this natural fear over the senses: a strange way, you will say, to convince the mind by attacking the imagination; or, if it was curiosity to see the operations of fear work on fancy, it was too nice an experiment to anatomize a friend's mind for information only. But perhaps the humour of the thought was the greatest motive; for he was a man of a gay temper, and frolicsome.

About noon, as they were standing, with more of the ship's company, upon deck, near the forecastle, looking at some of the governor's guard-boats, making fast to a buoy of a ship in the bay, in order to watch the money, that it might not be carried out of the country, Mr. Burnet proposed, as a plan for a wager, he being a remarkable good swimmer, to leap off the gunnel

gunnel of the ſhip, and dive all the way quite under water, from the ſhip to the boats at that diſtance, and ſo riſe up juſt upon them, to ſtartle the people at watch in them. A wager being laid, he undreſt, jumped off, and dived intirely out of ſight. Every body crouded forwards, keeping their eyes at the diſtance where he was expected to come up; but he never riſing to their expectation, and the time running paſt their hopes of ever ſeeing him more, it was juſtly concluded he was drowned, and every body was in the greateſt pain and concern; eſpecially thoſe, who by laying the wager, thought themſelves in ſome meaſure acceſſory to his death. But he, by ſkilful diving, having turned the other way behind the ſhip; and being alſo very active, got up by the quarter-ladder in at the cabin-window, whilſt

whilſt every body was buſy and in confuſion, at the forward part of the ſhip; then concealing himſelf the remaining part of the day in a cloſet in the ſtate-room, wrapped himſelf up in a linen night-gown of Mr. Walker's. Evening coming on, the whole ſhip's company being very melancholly at the accident, Mr. Walker retired with a friend or two to his cabin, where, in their converſation, they often lamented the ſad accident and loſs of their friend and dear companion, ſpeaking of every merit he had when living, which is the unenvied praiſe generally given to our friends when they can receive nothing elſe from us. The ſuppoſed dead man remained ſtill quiet, and heard more good things ſaid to his memory, than perhaps he would elſe have ever in his life-time heard ſpoken

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to his face. As ſoon as it was night, Mr. Walker's company left him; and he being low in ſpirits went to bed; where lying, ſtill penſive on the late loſs of his companion and friend, and the moon ſhining direct thro' the windows, he perceived the folding doors of the cloſet to open; and, looking ſtedfaſt towards them, ſaw ſomething, which could not fail ſtartling him, as he imagined it a repreſentation of an human figure; but recalling his better ſenſes, he was fond to perſwade himſelf, it was only the workings of his diſturbed fancy, and turned away his eyes. However, they ſoon again returned in ſearch of the object; and ſeeing it now plainly advance upon him, in a ſlow and conſtant ſtep, he recognized the image of his departed friend. He has not been aſhamed to own he felt terrors

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which ſhook him to the inmoſt ſoul. The mate, who lay in the ſteerage at the back of the cabin, divided only by a bulk-head, was not yet a-bed; and hearing Mr. Walker challenge, with a loud and alarmed voice, "What are you?" ran into him with a candle, and meeting Mr. Burnet in the linen gown, down drops the mate without ſo much as an ejaculation. Mr. Burnet, now beginning himſelf to be afraid, runs for a bottle of ſmelling ſpirits he knew lay in the window, and applied them to the noſe and temples of the ſwooning mate. Mr. Walker, ſeeing the ghoſt ſo very alert and good-natured, began to recover from his own apprehenſion, when Mr. Burnet cried out to him, "Sir, I muſt aſk your pardon: I fear I have carried the jeſt too far; I ſwam round and came in at the cabin window; I meant,

I meant, Sir, to prove to you the natural awe the braveſt men muſt be under at ſuch appearances, and have, I hope, convinced you in yourſelf." "Sir, ſays Mr. Walker, glad of being awakned from a terrible dream, and belief of his friend's death, you have given me a living inſtance of them; there needs no better proof: but pray take care you do not bring death amongſt us in earneſt." He then lent his aid in the recovery of the poor mate, who, as he retrieved his ſenſes, ſtill relapſed at the ſight of Mr. Burnet: ſo that Mr. Walker was obliged to make him intirely diſappear, and go call others to his aſſiſtance; which took up ſome conſiderable time in doing, every body, as Mr. Burnet advanced to them, being more or leſs ſurpriſed; but they were called to by him, and told the manner of the

the cheat, and then they were by degrees convinced of his reality; tho' every one was before thoroughly satisfied of his death. I being perſuaded that this ſtory carries a leſſon in it, which ſpeaks itſelf, ſhall conclude it by mentioning this circumſtance, that the poor mate never rightly recovered his ſenſes from that hour. Nature had received too great a ſhock, by which reaſon was flung from her ſeat, and could never regain it afterwards: a conſtant ſtupidity hung around him, and he could never be brought to look direct at Mr. Burnet afterwards, tho' he was as brave a man as ever went, in all his ſenſes, to face death by day-light.

This ſtory being circulated through the ſeveral degrees of men in the ſhip, its circumſtances ſeconded the now prevailing opinion in moſt of the people,

ple, that the other ſtory was alſo an invention contrived thro' a frolic, or for other purpoſes. But the prejudice afterwards again fatally prevailed: however, it was allayed for the preſent.

Auguſt the 22d, we gave chace to a ſnow, the Catharina, laden with wine and flour from Bayonne, bound to Martinico, which ſtruck to our firſt gun. She proved a very acceptable prize, as we may ſay we were here our own agents; for we were in want both of her wine and flour; taking out a ſufficiency of both to anſwer our occaſions, Mr. Walker afterwards ſent her into Madeira, where he intended to follow.

September the firſt, ſeeing a ſail we gave chace, and next day came up with her. She was the Fortune ſnow from Orantaver, bound for Hamburgh.

burgh. And here a new cataſtrophe happened. This was a ſort of infant mutiny in the ſhip, not from any diſguſt to the command or ſervice, but thro' the covetouſneſs of the men, ſetting themſelves up as judges in the condemnation of her as a prize. The caſe was, ſhe had a large ſum of money on board; and the maſter ſhewing ſome backwardneſs to produce his bills of lading, occaſioned a ſuſpenſion at firſt of her being French property. Whereupon Mr. Walket had her thoroughly examined; and having to his full ſatisfaction found, that her cargo, which conſiſted of two hundred pipes, and thirteen half pipes of wine, and ninety-ſix bags of money, was for the proper account and riſque of Ractic and Zacharias Rigter merchants in Hamburgh, he diſmiſſed her. This was a

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ſtep very ill reliſhed by moſt in the ſhip; and it was inſiſted upon in their private conferences afterwards, that ſhe was a lawful prize, and conſequently they had a right to, and ought to have detained her. However this murmuring did not reach Mr. Walker's ears, till it had gathered itſelf into a torrent of diſſatisfaction. Whilſt he was at ſupper, Mr. Kennedy, one of the lieutenants, came running in with an account, that the crew was in a mutiny. Mr. Walker, and his officers near him, immediatley arming themſelves, ruſhed upon deck, where he found them aſſembled, not indeed in arms, but in a mutinous manner, demanding a parley, in relation to his having diſmiſſed the late capture. Mr. Walker inſiſted, That this was not the way to aſk one; that he was willing, even the meaneſt man

in the ſhip ſhould be ſatisfied of his conduct; but then he would take care himſelf to give that ſatisfaction; and would not be called to an account for it by them. He was, he ſaid, ſtill more ſorry, it ſhould be ever ſaid of him, that he was obliged to take up arms againſt his own people, in defence of that conduct which could be ſo eaſily ſupported by words only: that it would be a pain to him to reflect on it, as long as he lived; and a blot on the character he imagined he had gained: that, in the firſt place, he would not enter into particulars with them, whilſt aſſembled in a manner, ſo like a mutiny. Nevertheleſs, he was deſirous of explaining to them the nature of their right over Dutch veſſels, as it might be for their general information and eaſe, (for in all probability they would meet many

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of them in thoſe ſeas) but that it ſhould be at a time when he pleaſed to call them together; for as they now ſtood aſſembled, they ſtood in oppoſition to him, and that every man who did not inſtantly ſeparate to his duty, when he gave the word, he would treat as aſſociates in a mutiny. Two of the men, *viz.* Charles Eaton and Michael Morgan, crying out, that then it would be too late, as the chace would be out of ſight, Mr. Walker demanded the others to bring them in irons to him, in token of their obedience, and ſent two of his officers to ſee it put in execution. This was obeyed. He then ordered them all to their duties till the morning, at which time he would come himſelf, and give them the ſatisfaction he promiſed. They accordingly diſperſed, and as ſtrict watch was kept the

whole night; nothing of diſturbance happened, except that two others endeavouring to unlooſe their meſsmates, were laid hold of, and being alſo put in irons, were all removed up to the quarter-deck. In the morning Mr. Walker bringing the treaty in his hand of 1674, relating to neutral ſhips, and the liberty allowed them to trade with our enemies, read it himſelf to them; and had ſeveral copies of the particular articles diſperſed amongſt them, which, by his direction, had been for this purpoſe tranſcribed over night: and, as many of the officers themſelves were of the ſame way of thinking with the men, he then explained to the whole, that as ſhe had no contraband goods on board, he had certainly no right, to detain her, by the treaty. And as to her having any French property on

board, it is moſt certain, if that had been proved, they had a right to ſeize an enemy's effects in the hands of a friend: but that, even ſo, they had no right to detain the ſhip, without being ſubject to all charges to the Dutchmen for demurrage, and other loſſes, which might accrue to other parts of the cargo; for tho' we had a right to take it, ſhe had a right to carry it; as the treaty does not hinder her from carrying French property, if ſhe pleaſed, provided it was not contraband; elſe why ſhould the treaty diſtinguiſh what ſhall be deemed contraband, and what otherways? that therefore it would be very impolitic in them to ſtop or detain any veſſels, even ſuppoſing part of the cargo to be French property, unleſs ſuch part were ſufficient to defray all the expences they might thereby bring

on

on their owners, as aforesaid. That king's ships indeed, tho' as yet they had given few examples of the kind, might, at all events, attack and break such secret trade of their enemies; as the country might find an advantage in paying large damages to one nation for the sake of distressing another: but they had their owner's advantage to consider, who had but private pockets; and that he thought it more honourable in them to return home without a prize, than to bring only such mock ones as these; which, besides the injury done to private property, might prove rather a loss and expence to their owners, than profit or advantage; and which would be reasonably deducted from any after-prizes they might fortunately make, as charges on the profits of the cruise. He said, he knew there were some

gentlemen who looked upon the circumstance of having any French property on board as significant, under the meaning of the treaty, to condemn ship and cargo, at least, the latter, without any damages for detention or otherways, being recovered on the part of the Dutch; that he allowed treaties to be instruments made use of, according to the circumstances of the times and place; but that, for his part, he was resolved to be guided in his conduct by the plain reason of things, and did not set up for giving occasional meanings to matters of such import. This argument had the wished respect paid to it: it was sensibly understood by most of the better sort, whom the more ignorant followed in assent, as they, who only follow, are led with more ease, as in the herd and bird kinds, by a call or known

note

note among themselves, than the most intelligent speech of reason in an officer or superior. It had also the further desired effect in our future examinations of all such ships; for from the journals I can collect many things of the like kind which came under our scrutiny and inspection. In all which examinations the greatest exactness was observed, to avoid giving the least umbrage or offence: so far as always sending our own boat for the master and commander; as it was an easier and readier office to us than them, and the last question was always asked by Mr. Walker himself at departing, whether they had received any injury or damage from any of the men? This proceeding, I know, will be by some esteemed judicious, by others triflingly cautious. I mean

but to relate it, not to ſet it out for praiſe.

The 28th, the iſland of Madeira bore S. S. W. and there we went in to water. On our arrival we found the prize Catharina not diſpoſed of, ſo Mr. Walker purchaſed her for a tender on the Boſcawen, ſhe having been proved to be a fine ſailor, and gave the command to Mr. John Kennedy the ſecond lieutenant, calling her the George. Here we put on ſhore the French priſoners, and delivered the four mutineers to the conſul, to be put on board one of his majeſty's ſhips, which ſhould firſt come to the iſland. And here again eleven of the men committed a diſturbance, by an affront done to the major part of a whole congregation at their ſervice of maſs, and indeed to the religion of

the

the place; for seeing the people, as they came out of the chapel, dip their hands in a fount of holy-water, and sprinkle themselves and faces with the liquid, one of them, pretending to dip in the fount, very ridiculously let fall some soot into it, which he had got concealed in his hand. This, instead of making the ablucnts appear white as angels, darkened them as black as devils: one part of the congregation thought it a prodigy, and said their prayers the faster; others laughed at their fellows, whilst their selves were of as good a complexion for ridicule. But the men, staying too long to enjoy the joke, were detected, apprehended, and imprisoned. This was a new perplexity to Mr. Walker; it appearing almost impossible for him to obtain their liberty. He applied to the con-

ſul, who was deſtitute of all power of giving advice. He at length aſked the conſul to invite about a dozen of the principal prieſts and gentlemen of the place to an entertainment on board; and this was, on all ſides, complied with. The entertainment was as elegant as all the delicacies of the country, a fine band of muſick, which to them was the higheſt part of it, and all the variety of wines on board and out of the prize, could afford. At a proper time Mr. Walker took occaſion of mentioning the raſh and inconſiderate act of his common ſailors, and repreſenting to them the loſs it would be to his majeſty's ſervice, to detain his men at this juncture: that the act was committed thro' an intire ignorance of the nature of the ceremony; only as a merriment on the croud, not as an affront to religion,

or

or irreverance of what they did not underſtand: and he promiſed them, that if they would immediately ſend him his men, he would, upon his honour, make the chapel a preſent of a pair of ſilver branches, or wrought candleſticks, to the value of five hundred mill-reas or about 140 *l.* ſterling, out of the firſt prize his ſhip and men ſhould take. This offer was as politely, in recommendation, ſeconded by many of the company, and his men were ſent him that evening. Mr. Walker at the ſame time ſent back preſents of ſeveral ſorts of wine to many of the prieſts and gentlemen. A circumſtance happened in the courſe of the entertainment, which gave him an opportunity, if he had pleaſed, of recovering his men by an artifice on the weak underſtanding

of the prieſts then preſent. Having a large flint vial of ſpirit of vitriol in his cabin, he told the prieſts he wondered the water, after gaining an holineſs from their hands, could be ſubject to receive a ſtain, or any contamination whatever; that he had a bleſſed water on board which would not: and ſo producing the vial, and pouring the ſeeming water into a baſon, he threw bits of dirt and ſoot, and pieces of rags into it before them. The ſpirit immediately devoured them all, (tearing the parts ſo fine as not to be obſerved) to the great wonder of the prieſts, as a ſuppoſed miracle; ſo that they would have gladly accepted this bleſſed water in exchange of all the priſoners. But as he found the former propoſal of a preſent had already worked a miracle, (which it ſeldom fails

fails of doing) and being above taking an advantage by impoſing on their ignorance, he diſcovered the reality to them; the whole company ſmiling at the eaſy trade of impoſture.

CHAP. IV.

The Boſcawen's departure from Madeira; her meeting the Duke of Bedford privateer, and ſeparation from her in a ſtorm; the accidents ſhe met with; the continuance of the ſtorm, and her intire loſs.

OCTOBER the 5th, the Boſcawen took her departure with the George tender from Madeira, and cruiſed off the weſtern iſles till November the 12th, in which time they chaſed ſeveral ſhips, which proved to be either Dutch or Engliſh. In the night of the twenty-firſt, ſhe loſt the company of the tender, which did not anſwer her lights. In the morning the Boſcawen ſhortened ſail, and went

under double reeft top-ſails till ſix o'clock, when, having gained no ſight of the George, ſhe immediately made all the ſail ſhe could carry and gave the tender chace; but during the whole day ſeeing nothing of that veſſel, ſhe made the beſt of her way to get into her ſtation, where ſhe, in a conſtant courſe of ill luck, examined ſeveral ſhips; none of which happened any ways to belong to an enemy.

November 2d, ſhe gave chace to a large ſhip, which, upon coming up with her, proved to be the Duke of Bedford privateer, belonging to Briſtol, which had been out nine weeks alſo without any ſucceſs, ſave that of having eſcaped from an hundred ſail of French merchant ſhips in the bay, under convoy of ſeven men of war, whom ſhe fell in with. Thus we were convinced the French had changed

changed their manner of coming home, by keeping always in whole fleets and under convoy, never truſting any conſiderable cargoes in ſingle or ſtraggling ſhips. Mr. Walker and the captain of the Bedford then agreed to keep company. The ſecond day after our ſailing in conſort very hard gales of wind aroſe, and a great ſwell from the ſouth; the wind S. S. W. which carried away the main-top-maſt. The enſuing days the ſwell ſtill continued, but the wind ſomewhat abated: but on the 12th, the wind again blew hard, the weather was cloudy, and there was much rain, which laid us under our vallanced mizens. And here we may ſay the Boſcawen received her fatal blow; for in handing or making faſt the main-ſail, tho' orders had been given to chain the yard before the people went up yet the boat-

ſwain

ſwain had neglected it, the ſtrap of the *geer-block*, by which the yard hung, gave way, and the main yard fell down, having above ſixty people on it, with the greateſt violence on the gunnel of the ſhip, clearing all before it. And altho' the ſtarboard yard arm fell ſo far a-peek into the ſea, as to be a great part in the water, yet not a man was hurt or drowned. The ſhip certainly received ſome injury in her joints by the accident; for ſhe very ſoon after grew leaky, which was the inlet to all our future misfortunes in her, that ended in her intire loſs.

The Duke of Bedford privateer was along-ſide when this accident happened; but the violence of the ſtorm not allowing her to give any aſſiſtance, ſhe was obliged, in order to provide for herſelf, to leave the Boſcawen:

and

and they never ſaw each other afterwards.

The ſecond day after this ſeparation, the ſtorm ſtill continuing, the ſhip ſprung a leak in the lar-board-ſide of her fore-hold; and made ſo much water, as to put them under a neceſſity of keeping two of her pumps continually going: but, by getting their cables from between decks, they found means to come at the leak, and ſtopped it for that day: but the ſtorm coming on more and more terrible, and the ſwell alſo increaſing, the ſhip now laboured hard; ſo that ſhe ſoon began to work in all her lower parts, as if ſhe was looſe, or had a joint in her keel, and would part aſunder. In which ſtate ſhe now again made ſuch a quantity of water, that the carpenters were at a

loſs

loſs how to judge of the nature of her leaks, apprehending them to proceed from a general weakneſs of the whole ſhip in her original conſtruction: we were at this time cruiſing off the weſtern iſles. Mr. Walker ordered the ſhip to bear away, till ſhe ſhould come forty or fifty leagues weſtward of Scilly, where he intended to have finiſhed the remaining part of his cruiſe. In which ſtation they might, in caſe of more urgent accidents, be within twenty-four hours ſail of Scilly or Kinſale: but on the 17th, the water ſo greatly increaſing in the hold as to alarm the whole ſhip, the lieutenants and officers ſigned a petition to Mr. Walker, ſetting forth the ill ſtate of her, and requeſting, that, for the preſervation of their lives and her, he would intirely give over the cruiſe, and make the beſt of his

way

way to England. Mr. Walker met them directly in the ward-room, in conſultation thereupon. He told them, that tho' they had not yet found the ſucceſs expected, he hoped their want of buſineſs had not made them weary of the cruiſe before it was over; for tho' he agreed with them, that the ſhip was not in a condition to keep them ſeas, at ſo great a diſtance from home, yet, at the ſame time, he did not apprehend her to be in ſuch imminent danger as to oblige them to give over the cruiſe. However he ſaid, he would be guided in all things by reaſon and facts, and deſired every one to give their opinion without reſerve. Mr. Dottin, the firſt lieutenant, ſaid, he had very lately examined into the whole ſtate of the ſhip; that her leaks every minute grew worſe, their rigging was ſpent, and their proviſion bad;

bad; which circumſtances were alone the occaſion of his becoming a petitioner with the reſt. The carpenter made a report, that he hourly expected ſome buts or planks to ſtart; the heads of the nails being all eaten away with ruſt, and the planks not ſo well trinneled, as our Engliſh ſhips in general are; and that, from her main hatch to her fore-maſt, ſhe was ſo weak, he would not inſure her, notwithſtanding their beſt pumping, to keep above water for twenty-four hours. Mr. Walker then conſented to proceed for the firſt port in England; obſerving, that his honour and duty to his owners obliged him to ſpeak to every ſhip he ſaw in his way home: but, above every thing, he recommended to them to uſe their beſt endeavours to animate and encourage the people, that their ſpirits might

be

be kept up, and conſequently be the better able to perform their duty, as therein not only all hopes of future ſucceſs, but their preſent ſafety depended.

From this time to the 20th, the men kept willingly to the pumps. The ſhip had four pumps of the French conſtruction, which now were kept conſtantly employed, and which diſcharged a great deal more water, in equal time, than our common ſort do; tho' not ſo much by the half as chain pumps, but they take leſs room. Therefore, for all common merchant ſhips, the French conſtruction is by much the moſt preferable: but notwithſtanding the great and inceſſant diſcharge of theſe pumps, the water all the time gained upon their labour, and the weather continued ſtill very rough, ſo as to occaſion the

ſhip

ſhip to work upon the waves with great difficulty. A languor now ſeemed to ſteal upon the limbs and ſenſes of the men, and the ſymptoms of their former deſpondency began to appear. Every method was taken to invigorate them; but riſing circumſtances ſeemed to oppoſe themſelves, at every effort, to all endeavours of that kind. For now, on the twentieth, the ſtorm again increaſed, and by the greater labour and working of the ſhip, the water ruſhed in at all her ſeams in her fore-part, and ſeveral buts above water ſtarted; ſo that now the pumps with all their power were not ſufficient to keep it under; but every other hand was obliged to be employed in baling, which threw up ſuch large quantities or ſuch a flood of water on the decks, that the ſcupper-holes, which were ten in number,

and

and very large, were not able to vent it with an equal diſcharge; and in this ſituation we continued for ſeven days longer.

Another ſpeedy conſultation was called about throwing the guns over board, and ſix of the foremoſt were agreed on to be thrown over. Some advanced, that bringing the guns backwards in the hold would raiſe the ſhip more out of the water forwards; but as her leakings were too low for that to be of any uſe, it was thought that the greater weight in her hold would make her labour ſtill the harder; ſo they were without delay thrown over.

In this fatal dilemma one of another kind was formed among the people as the only reſource for their lives. This was no leſs than a conſpiracy to ſeize on the ſmall arms, and take the barge and yawl into their

their poſſeſſion, and ſo leave the ſhip with the captain, officers, and the reſt of the crew, to the mercy of the ſeas. Horrid as this deſign was, yet as the proſpect of preſervation by any other means was impoſſible, it was a crime more to be pitied and prevented than formally condemned and puniſhed; every man being deſirous of quitting the ill-omened ſhip, which was now again believed to be deſtined to a watry fate. Mr. Walker, who, at all ſuch times, feared his men would naturally fly to cabals, and their own directions, from labour and command, where death ſeemed the only end of both, had before placed his ſpies amongſt them; and being informed of every movement, and among the reſt of this, took occaſion to order up ſome of his officers on the tops, and diſpoſing the reſt in the fore-caſtle and other places,

where

where the arms were lodged, they, on a ſignal given, ſeizing arms only for themſelves, in a moment threw all the reſt of the ſmall arms and armchests, all the pole-axes, crows, ſhot, and every weapon or inſtrument of offence, overboard. By theſe means, without waiting for further arguments, the poor conſpirators, aſtoniſhed, perceived it out of their power to execute their deſign, which they were conſcious was detected and at once prevented; and, in the greateſt agonies of ſurpriſe and fear, imagined Mr. Walker and his officers were now going to put in practice againſt them what had been by themſelves intended againſt others. But Mr. Walker immediately, with great mildneſs, told them, he ſincerely forgave them their fooliſh raſhneſs, as he looked on it an effect rather of their fears than diſobedience.

obedience; that if they would now exert their beſt ſtrength and ſpirits, to pump and bale out the water, they in all probability would preſerve themſelves and him: but the moment they declined ſo doing, they muſt expect as ſudden death in going to the bottom. If they did their utmoſt, he and his officers would never part from them: but if they refuſed their aſſiſtance to the general preſervation, he had it in his power to provide ſeparately for himſelf and officers, as they before ſo cowardly intended to have done for themſelves. This being at once the doctrine and practice of humanity, ſo affected the poor fellows, that many of them were ſeen to turn aſide and weep; touched with a ſenſe of the generous goodneſs of their preſerver, or with remorſe at their own intentions. They all then

endeavoured, diſpirited as they were, to give him three cheers, of their love and gratitude; which were ſent up in ſuch broken and feeble ſounds, that Mr. Walker, on his part, could not help letting fall a token of his grief at the death of their uſual vigour. He and his officers, being ſolely armed, removed next the barge and yawl, for their greater ſecurity, from the boombs; and bringing them aft, laſhed them one on each ſide the quarters, where they were immediately under his own eye and command. Thus diſappointed of all other means, which was the great enforcing argument, the men applied themſelves to the pumps, and their other duty, with ſuch unwearied diligence, that they did all that could be expected from men in their condition.

From this time Mr. Walker never quitted the quarter-deck; nor once lay down for ſeven days, ſleeping only as he ſtood, leaning on the barricade or rail of the quarter-deck; for the men watched every motion and every word. And had he diſappeared a minute, 'tis believed the duty of the ſhip had ſtopped, the officers themſelves, notwithſtanding the frequent aſſurances of reſolution given by them to Mr. Walker, at ſometimes being as deſponding as the men. But whatever the captain's own fears were, he never diſcovered them even to his officers; inſiſting to the laſt, he did not think the ſhip in any inſtant danger: ſo that ſuch of them as gave a preference to his judgment over their own ſenſes, a while grew more eaſy. Mr. Walker had taken in at Madeira

twelve quarter caſks of the beſt Malmſey wine, intended as preſents for his friends. Theſe he ordered regularly to be portioned out to them, under the inſpection of his officers; which by its good body and ſoundneſs greatly kept up the natural ſtrength and ſpirits of the men. It was thought proper to move two of the pumps forward to the hatch-way: which being juſt under Mr. Walker, as he ſtood on the quarter-deck, you might ſee the men in their labour look up at him, as it were ſearching his countenance; and at every forced encouragement ſend up ſome bleſſing, often anſwering his ſeeming chearfulneſs with not unmanly tears. Another circumſtance added much to our calamity. All the caſks, by the water riſing ſo high in the hold, floated or

rolled

rolled about, ſtriking from ſide to ſide againſt the ceilings of the ſhip; that they were obliged to ſtave all ſuch of them as they could reach, to the loſs of moſt of their proviſion and water; and the men had no other ſuſtenance, except ſome cheeſe, than the wine and biſket.

On the twenty-fourth, the ſtorm grew ſtill more violent than before; ſo as to have given buſineſs ſufficient for the ſtouteſt ſhip, to have made her way in ſafety thro' it. She now worked forward, as it were upon joints, letting in vaſt ſprings of water at every motion, and groaning hard as ſhe laboured on in the ſtorm. Seventeen more of the guns were without much conſultation ſent over, the anchors cut away with the ſprit-ſail-yard, and flying-gibboom, and every thing done, without regard to

loſs, which was thought to give her eaſe. The pumps alſo choaked in the hatch-way, and were haſtily removed to their former place. The next day, the fore-ſail, as they were hauling it up, ſplit all to pieces by the violence of the wind. The rigging alſo, through inceſſant ſtrains, by the labouring of the ſhip, gave way. Thus they juſt ſwam almoſt a wreck upon the ſea, every moment expecting to ſink for ever, and every wave to be the laſt thro' which the ſhip could ſtruggle; for they could not ſpare the hands from the pumps and bailing to repair any damages. Happy had it then been thought, if their worſt enemies had come to ſave them by bondage from a more inglorious death. But not a ſail was met with or ſeen, ſince the departing of the Duke of Bedford privateer, during the whole

whole time of their diſtreſs. Mr. Walker was now the only man, except one, who did not make ſome viſible ſhew of his fears; and indeed the only one who appeared unconcerned as to the danger, as he inſiſted the ſhip would reach her port: but then his great anxiety of acting, ſhewed him touched with a more general care than he would expreſs for himſelf alone. Being addreſſed by ſome of the moſt terrified, that prayers might be ſaid, he anſwered, he hoped every man's heart was an altar of conſtant prayer and praiſe; but that a formal ceremony of ſuch duty preſented in diſtreſs only, looked like a compulſive ſacrifice of fear, and was confeſſing the motive of it, deſpondency, which might be juſtly rewarded with the bad effects of its danger in lowering the ſpirits or hopes of the men: but

that to animate themſelves and men, was doing their duty to the laſt: on ſuch good aſſurances of being right therein, prepared to ſubmit to fate, or ready to embrace with thanks their deliverance. When afternoon came, the men began to flag in ſpirits and in work, ſeeming careleſs of the arrival of that fate to which they thought they muſt yield at laſt; and ſeveral argued it to be folly in them to pump any longer. To offer threats or penalties where death was aſked, promiſed little ſucceſs. Whilſt Mr. Walker was thus in ſtudy what means to uſe, he miſſed moſt of his principal officers at the ſame time. They in fact had retired from under his eye, not daring before him to give utterance to their mutual feelings of their danger, and had met in the gun-room in melancholy conſolation, in order

order to take eternal leave of each other. Acquainted herwith, but not ſeeming to notice it, he privately ſent up a man to the top to cry a ſail, and having called his drum to him, bid it immediately beat to arms. The ſudden alarm of joy ſoon elevated the men, and ſtartled the deſpondents below; who, running up and hearing a ſail cried, cloſed round Mr. Walker for his orders. "Sir, ſays one, do you think of engaging?" "Yes, Sir, ſays Mr. Walker, in a low voice, when I ſee an enemy ſo near—your own fears, which attack the hearts of all my other men. I am willing to take my greater part of duty, but you leave too much to my ſhare." Perceiving the device, in which as they felt the rebuke, they were convinced of his ſuperior perſeverance, they never after left his command: but the diſcovery

was not communicated to the men; for it now growing dark, they were kept up in ſpirits for the night, as in hopes of coming up with the ſail next morning.

The next morning no ſail appearing, the men were ſomewhat caſt down; but the ſtorm being abated they were encouraged to proceed to the firſt land, as they were in no capacity of going in ſearch of a chace. This held for the greater part of the day, till reflection ſhewing them the inſufficiency of their paſt hopes, and no further proſpect riſing of ſucceſs, the former malady of mind returned, and all ſeemed loſt again; when Mr. Walker aſſured them, as poſitive in his own judgment, they would ſee land next day. This again wound up hope, which waits on expectation; tho' he certainly did not make aſſurance to himſelf

himself of his promise, but only used this device as a policy which touched the chief spring of the mind's machine, namely, the same hope on which all the other passions turn. During this suspence, a man came running upon the quarter-deck, whether scared by his own fears, or sent by the others, is uncertain, with news, that the ship was just then going to sink. "You villain, you lie, cries Mr. Walker: she told me otherwise this moment, as she rose on yonder wave," and knocked down the poor fellow, who went back to his comrades, with an account of the reception he met with for his over hasty intelligence. Thus Mr. Walker's undismayed resolution to the last began to communicate itself to the spirits of the others, and kept them up thro' weariness and fatigue, with an hope which some-

times grew to a faith, that they were to be preserved because he was the prophet; and thus agreeable night was worn thro' in labour and anxiety, wishing for a suspension of death till morn, which was expected to bring the promised reprieve.

The morning came and joy, like an additional light broke forth with it, and cheered the souls and very beings of the men; for land now appearing, proved it a true prophecy. Thither they steered, and the weather clearing and wind favourable, they seemed to make an happy progress on their way, tho' still in equal danger, and with incessant fatigue of mind and body. The land was St. Ives: at length their strength was just exhausted, notwithstanding the continued prospect of relief more and more at

hand, which ſpoke an encouragement, they reached the bay, and had they had another league to go 'tis thought their beſt labour had not attained it, ſo ſpent were the men, and ſo deep was the water in the ſhip. They inſtantly hoiſted their colours of diſtreſs, and fired ſome of their remaining guns as ſignals; upon which the boats went off to their aſſiſtance, and brought the ſhip into the road. From the quantity of water in her hold, and the want of anchors to bring her up, it was judged moſt adviſeable to get her within the pier; but the people not being able thro' the violence of the wind and ſea ſo to do, ſhe fell to leeward of the harbour, and lodged herſelf on a rocky ſhore, which the moment ſhe touched, ſhe broke into two, and altogether ſeparated; one maſt falling

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in upon the shore, and the other mast upon the sea. By the nearness of the shore and the number of boats, all the men were saved except four, and three of these had foretold the destruction of the ship.

Thus fell a wreck the finest privateer in Europe. 'Tis certain he felt a shock by the falling of the yard, but the carpenter insisted she would have equally leaked, and her buts have started on account of the heads of the nails being eaten away with rust, and of the planks not being well trincled; as has been before observed; which French method of building is herein erroneous: for tho' they be very skilful in the mechanism of a ship as to her proportions for well sailing, yet they are not so just in the goodness of their constructions, their bodies being

being generally too weak, as was proved to be the caſe of this unfortunate ſhip; whereas the trinnels or pegs by ſwelling, become of a united body with the reſt of the planks or timber, and, having no heads for the planks to force againſt, cannot ſo readily ſtart as the others. But in accounting for this accident to the ſhip, I have heard Mr. Walker lay great charge of it to himſelf, and have his expreſs directions to mention it, as it may be of ſome public uſe. That the French, regarding chiefly the ſailing of their ſhips, may, in their great knowledge of mechanics, calculate to an exactneſs the ſtrength of them, to the weight of metal they are to bear; he changing her guns, from twenty-eight nine pounders, to thirty twelve and nine pounders, as beforementioned, might be too conſtant and top-

top-heavy a weight on her decks, when ſhe came to labour in a ſtorm.

The people of the ſea-coaſt of Cornwall have for ſome years undergone the cenſure of being ſavage devourers of all wrecks, that ſtrike againſt their coaſts. How weak a creature is general belief, the dupe of idle fame! Humanity never exerciſed its virtues more conſpicuouſly than in this inſtance, in the inhabitants and people of St. Ives. They flocked down in numbers to our aſſiſtance; and, at the riſque of many of their own lives, ſaved ours. Mr. Walker would not be prevailed upon to quit the ſhip, till he had ſeen the ſick lifted thro' the cabin windows into the boats; bidding all, without diſtinction, provide for themſelves, as he was capable of ſwimming: but he was himſelf, at laſt, lifted out by two of the

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townſmen, ſtrangers to him, who went upon the wreck to bring him off.

It would be tedious to paint all the ſenſible expreſſions of thanks and gratitude, in the people to Providence for this their great deliverance: I ſhall mention one for the whole, as the moſt particularly obſerved by the reſt. The ſurgeon, who had been on board, was a gentleman of good wit and underſtanding; but unhappily remarkable for too looſe a neglect of duty to that being he had always ſenſe enough to revere. In all the former ſcenes amidſt others concern, he ſhewed ſo little ſenſe of feeling at any change of ſtate which mortality was ſubject to, that his lighter flights of humour ſeemed ſtill wholly to poſſeſs him. At the very laſt conſultation, when every

other

other mind was attentive to the higheſt objects, he having fixed his eyes very ſtedfaſtly on a perſon oppoſite to him, who had but one arm, broke out into a violent fit of laughing; and being reprimanded for his mirth, ſo out of ſeaſon, "I am only laughing, ſays he, to think, how awkward that fiſh there will ſwim with but one fin." This gentleman getting on ſhore, whither the ſhip, as by the word of Providence, had juſt lived to deliver them before her own diſſolution, and being touched certainly at ſuch interpoſition in his favour, threw up an eye to heaven, in the preſence of the whole company, that ſparkled with a fire more than commonly human, crying out, "O God! to whom, for theſe ſeven years, I have not lifted up my eye or heart in prayer,

prayer, I now presume to thank you. Let me never forget this thy mercy, or my duty more."

When they came into the town, every body's house was open to them in all the offices of assistance: but above all other instances which could be given of the generosity of the place, gratitude must here pay her greatest debt, in remembring John Stevens, Esq; whose unwearied activity, liberality, and prudence, in aiding, befriending, and directing our affairs, are without paralellel, except in other like actions of his own. He took Mr. Walker to his own house, where he lived with him during his stay in the place; he was, in short, in every circumstance from Mr. Walker, down to the lowest man, the father of redress to every grievance. When we mention this gentleman as most distinguish-

ſtinguiſhable amongſt many others, we do not forget to acknowledge the debts of obligation we owe to the mayor, the magiſtrates, and other gentlemen of the town, whoſe invitations, readineſs to ſerve, and other acts of civility, rendered them ever worthy the beſt report of their deſerving. The firſt night Mr. Walker made all his officers ſleep under their arms, as he did the like, to be in readineſs, in caſe of any attack againſt the wreck; and accordingly ſo it happened, for in the night the miners came down, and were ſetting about ſharing the wreck amongſt them. At the very firſt alarm, the mayor himſelf was up and a party of the town, who went in arms with Mr. Walker againſt them, diſperſed the croud, and took two of the men priſoners: theſe are a people the civil power are

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ſcarcely anſwerable for, at leaſt for their good manners, as they live almoſt out of the diſtricts of human ſociety, and may be ſaid to be no viſible inhabitants of the earth, tho' they act in the world. The time during their ſtay, which was upwards of three weeks, was ſolely employed in taking care of the wreck; and thro' the aſſiſtance of the aforeſaid gentlemen and others, every thing and matter was taken care of with as much and more exactneſs, than if the wreck had lain at the ſhore of Dartmouth, or the doors of the proprietors; and a great part was ſaved to a conſiderable amount. Mr. Walker did not forget to remind his officers in the duty he had before adviſed to them, of returning thanks to that Preſerver, to whom they owed ſo great a deliverance; and the Sunday

after

after went, at the head of all his officers and most of the crew, to church, where public thanks were returned for the late great and divine mercies they had received; and the clergyman was so interested in the case, as to preach a very excellent sermon suitable to the occasion. Mr. Walker then went to Dartmouth.

Thus ended this unfortunate cruise, protracted for upwards of three months, by various perplexities and accidents, in which Mr. Walker was to take his trial as in success. I have not yet made mention of the cause of the George tender quitting the Boscawen, which perhaps was one of the wickedest steps ever taken of the kind. The captain of her deliberately went off with her to Ireland, and there sold the greater part of her wines. He indeed returned with her after-

afterwards to Dartmouth, with ſome vague excuſes for his behaviour. This action alſo ſhews itſelf the more wicked, as in their conſequent diſtreſs, they might all have periſhed, for want of the aſſiſtance he could have given.

This was the only cruiſe in which I did not attend Mr. Walker, having been detained at Dartmouth thro' illneſs; but I was preſent at the interviews between him and his late owners, who received him with marks of eſteem, and a joy equal to what had been the claim of the beſt ſucceſs. One of the firſt queſtions Mr. Walker aſked was, whether they were inſured? The anſwer was, No, nor ever would be in a ſhip where he commanded. They further offered, and which was, at ſeveral times after repeated,

peated, to build him a new forty gun ſhip from the ſtocks, after his own model and directing; but his affairs at this preſent hurried him to London.

The End of the Firſt VOLUME.